AAR# 496 R

AFTER ACTION REPORT

25TH TANK BATTALION

14TH ARMORED DIVISION

846-26

OCTOBER THRU DECEMBER 44

JANUARY THRU ~~APRIL~~ May 1945

825-TB-104

Fr: 0001, 2 Oct 1944
To: 2400, 2 Oct 1944

1730- Hq, B, C, & Ser Cos entrained at Cp Campbell, Ky, destination Cp Shanks, N Y. Major Cavin Train Commander. Fifteen sleepers, two kitchen cars.

1830- A & D Cos entrained at Cp Campbell, Ky, destination Cp Shanks, N Y. On train with 47th Tank Bn.

1830-2400 Enroute to Cp Shanks, N Y.

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Fr: 0001, 3 Oct 1944
To: 2400, 3 Oct 1944

0001-2400 Enroute Camp Shanks, N Y.

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Fr: 0001, 4 Oct 1944
To: 2400, 4 Oct 1944

0001-0900 Enroute Cp Shanks, N Y.

0900- Train arrived Cp Shanks, N Y. Hq, B, C, & Ser Cos detrained. Met by billeting party and placed in Theatre of Operation type barracks. Bn Hqrs set up in Bn area.

1600- A & D Cos detrained, Cp Shanks, N Y.

1600-2400 Billeting, setting up Cos in barracks.

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Fr: 0001, 5 Oct 1944
To: 2400, 12 Oct 1944

This period devoted to processing of unit prior to embarkation. Processing consisted of following:

Physical examinations
Vaccination, typhus shots
Personal affairs lecture
Abandon boat drill
Ten mile dismounted road march
Gas mask training, w/gas chamber
Orientation training films, "Why We Fight" series
Lecture on how to escape if captured
Showdown inspection of clothing and equipment. Extra blankets (2) issued, snow pacs, ski socks, new type gas masks, woolen sweaters, field jackets issued.

In addition to above, concurrent training was conducted by companies. Athletic facilities were available and used daily. Theatres were conveniently located and stage shows were presented nightly. Twelve hour passes to New York were granted prior to alert. Unit alerted for move 11 October 1944.

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Fr: 0001, 13 Oct 1944
To: 2400, 13 Oct 1944

0001-1600 Packing, loading duffel bags on trucks prior to entraining for movement to point of embarkation.
1600- Entrained at Cp Shanks, N Y.
1730- Detrained at New York, moved by ferry to pier #6, Staten Island Terminal for embarkation.
1900- Arrived at pier #6, met by advance party and assigned compartments on SS Santa Rosa, former Grace Line Ship.
1900-2400 Aboard Ship

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Fr: 0001, 14 Oct 1944
To: 2400, 14 Oct 1944

0001-1600 Aboard Ship.

1600- Ship Sailed from New York Harbor, destination as yet unknown.

1600-2400 Enroute.

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Fr: 0001, 15 Oct 1944
To: 2400, 28 Oct 1944

Aboard ship enroute to Marseille, France. Smooth sea until in Mediterrannean Sea. Seasickness high at start of voyage. Two meals were served daily by ships crew. Morale was excellent entire voyage. Special Service provided movies nightly and in addition arranged variety shows with talent from various units. One half hour additional gas mask training was conducted. Individual weapons were cleaned daily. Ship PX service available with ample supply of cigarettes, toilet articles and candy. Protestant and Catholic services conducted regularly by Chaplain. Abandon ship drill conducted daily. Ship blacked out at dusk daily, no smoking on deck, port holes closed. Ship orchestra was organized under direction of 1st Lt H. G. Jones, 47th Tk Bn. Sgt McClarren, D Co, and Cpl Flores, A, Co, played with orchestra.

Ship anchored outside Harbor of Marseille at 1500, 28 Oct 1944.

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Fr: 0001, 29 Oct 1944
To: 2400, 29 Oct 1944

0001-1200 Aboard ship in harbor preparing for debarkation.

1200- Ship pulled into pier and unit debarked. Marched with full field packs eight miles to tent camp vic LaMalle. Most of distance uphill. Duffel bags and T&T equipment unloaded by unloading details to be trucked to LaMalle.

1500- Arrived at tent camp vic LaMalle.

1500-2400 Billeting, men assigned to tents, Bn CP established. Eight to ten men assigned each tent.

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Fr: 0001, 30 Oct 1944
To: 2400, 5 Nov 1944

In bivouac area vic LaMalle. During this period drawing of vehicles and vehicular equipment was accomplished. Vehicles worked on to prepare them for combat. New 76 and 105's fired for purpose of testing to see if functioning properly. Daily individual weapons inspection held. Daily period of calisthenics held. Weather bad most of this period, cloudy and rain. Eight hour passes granted men to visit Marseille.

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Fr: 0001, 6 Nov 1944
To: 2400, 8 Nov 1944

During this period all Tanks and Half Tracks loaded on trains for movement to Fortieus La Verrerie.
B, D, C, & A Cos from Cannae Station, Marseille.
Hq Co from station at Septemes

0730 6 Nov All wheeled vehicles left for road march to biv area vic Fortieux La Verrerie.

1700 8 Nov Wheeled vehicle column halted at Valence, spent night in stable of French Cavalry Unit.

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HEADQUARTERS
25TH TANK BATTALION
APO 446, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

6 December 1944

SUBJECT: Unit Historical Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, CC "A", 14th Armored Division.

In compliance with Memorandum #5, Hq CC "A", dated 4 December 1944, the Unit Historical Report for this Battalion is attached hereto.

For the Battalion Commander:

WILLIAM E. SHEDD, III,
Major, 25th Tk Bn,
S-3.

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**S-3 JOURNAL, 2?TH TANK BN**

Fr: 0001, 1 Nov 1944
To: 2400, 5 Nov 1944

In bivouac area vic LaBalle. During this period drawing of vehicles and vehicular equipment was accomplished. Vehicles worked on to prepare them for combat. New 76 and 105's fired for purpose of testing to see if functioning properly! Daily individual weapons inspection held. Daily period of calisthenics held. Weather bad most of this period, cloudy and rain. Eight hour passes granted men to visit Marseille.

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Fr: 0001, 6 Nov 1944
To: 2400, 8 Nov 1944

During this period all tanks and half tracks loaded on trains for movement to Fortieux La Verrerie.
B, D, C, & A Cos from Cannes Station, Marseille.
Hq Co from station at Septemes.

0730 8 Nov All wheeled vehicles left for road march to biv area vic Fortieux La Verrerie.
1700 8 Nov Wheeled vehicle column halted at Valence, spent night in stable of French Cavalry Unit.

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Fr: 0001, 9 Nov 1944
To: 2400, 9 Nov 1944

0600- Wheeled vehicle column departed from Valence, on road until 1600.
1600- Column halted, went into biv area in park in Dijon. Raining continually. A, C, B, D [illegible] tanks and half tracks arrive at station near bivouac area.

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Fr: 0001, 10 Nov 1944
To: 2400, 10 Nov 1944

0600- Wheeled vehicle column left Dijon to continue march to Fortieux La Verrerie.
1500- Wheeled vehicle column arrived at bivouac area vic Fortieux La Verrerie. Hq Co train arrives, tanks and half tracks unloaded & brought to biv area.

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Fr: 0001, 11 Nov 1944
To: 2400, 1? Nov 1944

In biv bivouac area vic Fortieux La Verrie. Entire period devoted to maintenance of vehicles and weapons. All [illegible] never before fired were fired. Afterwards, Ord checked all weapons to correct deficiencies noted [illegible]. Concurrent training [illegible] covering [illegible] gunnery, [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] lined tr[illegible] for [illegible] and [illegible] platoons. [illegible] cloudy and rainy all the time. Corduroy road [illegible] to [illegible] out.

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Fr: [illegible], ?0 [illegible]
To: [illegible]

[illegible] -, 1- -, 1- -, [illegible] to 6. I.

[illegible]

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## S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 21 Nov 1944
To: 2400, 21 Nov 1944

0800- Moved from LaSalle to vic MenPatelise. Setup Bn CP in house in center of town. Preparations made for crossing river at St Michel. One tank, A Co, hit mine while moving into town. Mine planted near edge of building, three men injured. No contact with enemy. Orders received at 1500 changing plans and attaching Bn to 15th Corps, 7th Army. Moved out at 1630 with mission of seizing Darembach. Route via Rambervillers-Blamont.

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Fr: 0001, 22 Nov 1944
To: 2400, 22 Nov 1944

0730- Arrived at Blamont. Moved from Blamont to Cirey as 3d column behind 62d and 48th. Remained on road during night due to end of CCA Column meeting resistance vic St Quiren.

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Fr: 0001, 23 Nov 1944
To: 2400, 23 Nov 1944

Bn in CCA Reserve. Remained on road. No contact with enemy. Bn CP established in house at [illegible] at V473013, Map France 1/100,000, Sheet 15G. Resistance encountered by forward units of CCA consisting mainly of road blocks defended by Mortar and MG fire. T-62 reverted back to 62 AIB while T-25 reverted back to Bn control.

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Fr: 0001, 24 Nov 1944
To: 2400, 24 Nov 1944

1125- Bn moved to continue march on CCA Objective. 3d Platoon, [illegible] Co, preceded Hq CCA for security. Bn still in CCA Reserve.

1730- Passed through Dreschviller. Halted on road for night at [illegible]50093, Map France, 1/100,000. Column following 48th Tk Bn Column. 48th held up by some type of road blocks. Enemy snipers active to a small degree during the night. No contact with enemy.

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Fr: 0001, [illegible] Nov 1944
To: 24[illegible], [illegible] Nov 1944

0[illegible]00- Bn moved from [illegible]50093[illegible].

104[illegible]- Arrived at LeDanon. Bn CP established in house at [illegible]. Snipers still active. [illegible] returned to [illegible] Corps control again. No physical contact.

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Fr: [illegible], [illegible] Nov 1944
To: [illegible], [illegible] Nov 1944

[illegible]emained in present position effecting [illegible] ly [illegible] tory [illegible] moving out on new mission at [illegible], [illegible]7 Nov 44. Bn ordered to [illegible] 2100, 26 Nov. [illegible] Mission of [illegible] out of [illegible] resistance encountered on way to be [illegible]. [illegible] -6 returned to [illegible]. No [illegible] contact.

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S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 27 Nov 1944
To: 2400, 28 Nov 1944

0700- Bn moved from Schonseck continuing on mission. Bn moved as right column of CCA. First contact with enemy via Gexweiller. Nature of enemy defense consisted of road blocks of trees felled across road protected by small arms fire. Civilian reported prior to our attack on this position that town was held by approximately 25 Germans. Attack was made at Approx 1400 by 1st Platoon, A Co, Lt Tomey, with support of 1st Platoon, D Co, Lt Chrisman, and AG Platoon, Lt Martin. Resistance eliminated and road blocks removed at approx 1430. Column reformed and continued on road toward Gertsweiller. Considerable MG fire and a few rounds of 76 and 105 used in fight before Gexweiller. At approx 1600, Lt Tomey reported blown bridge across stream in center of Gertsweiller. Bypass was found approx one hour later and Lt Tomey's Platoon was ordered to move to outskirts of town and halt. Approx 1/2 mile from town heavy AT fire was received by Lt Tomey's Platoon. Three tanks knocked out, Lt Tomey and two crew members killed and six men wounded. Infantry immediately moved into position on outskirts of town and dugin, supported by one 105 How from Lt Martin's Platoon and 3d Platoon, A Co, Lt Walton. Heavy fighting continued during entire night with our Infantry being forced back slowly. Mortar Platoon fired approx fifty rounds by map data on estimated German position, results of fire unknown.

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Fr: 0001, 28 Nov 1944
To: 2400, 28 Nov 1944

Assault Gun Platoon-One tank fired complete load early in the morning in support of Infantry. Tank unable to get back across blown bridge due to bypass being captured by enemy. Plans made for destruction of tank when necessary to withdraw. Plans unable to be carried out due to rapidity of enemy early morning attack. On withdrawal from town after loss of 105 intact, Lt Martin and members of AG Platoon assisted Inf withdrawal by firing 50 cal MGs as much as possible.
A Company- Withdrawal of Inf from town covered by Lt Walton's Platoon. Considerable fire laid in houses where enemy bazooka men and snipers were hiding. All of A Co laid fire on town of Gertsweiller early in morning until Bn withdrew to outskirts of Gexweiller in middle of afternoon.
B Company-Lt Swager's Platoon (1st Pl) set up on left flank of Bn front which was established on CR approx 400 yards from town of Gertsweiller and fired into enemy which was located in buildings and dugin in fields. This platoon was ordered to make another attempt to enter town of Gertsweiller but was unsuccessful after going into town one block. Lead tank knocked out by bazookamen in building. One man killed. Platoon then withdrew to former position. 2d & 3d Platoons alternated in protecting right flank of Bn in firing at same targets. Lt Hyde's tank knocked out and burned by AT gun firing from building in Gertsweiller.
C Company-Attached to 62 AIB, had small fire fight and 62 was forced to withdraw due to cross fire on road.
D Company-1st Platoon, Lt Chrisman, in center of forward line in front of Gertsweiller claimed to have knocked out one enemy AT Gun. Bn forced to withdraw to defensive position around Gexweiller in middle of afternoon. No further contact during night except scattered arty and mortar fire which had been falling on column heavily during the day. Civilians reported that enemy had moved approx 300 reinforcements into Gertsweiller early in the morning.

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Fr: 0001, 29 Nov 1944
To: 2400, 29 Nov 1944

Gun Platoon, B-94, and Bn Gun Platoon entered town of Gertsweiller again at approx 0800, mission being to locate enemy if still present and begin clearing town. Platoon reported enemy had apparently withdrawn leaving only snipers in few buildings. Both platoons mopped up in town and established defenses on outskirts of town during day. 3d Platoon, B Co, (Lt Cassner), sent into town to cover Engineers while bridge was being constructed. PWs reported enemy had withdrawn from town during previous night.





29 Nov 1944 (continued)

Artillery bombardment during previous day and night quite effective. Bridge completed at 1600 and all units pulled back to Bn assembly area around Gerweiller. Bn CP established in house in SE edge of Gerweiller. Bn placed in CCA reserve to remain in present location awaiting further orders. B-62 returned to 62 control.

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Fr: 0001, 30 Nov 1944
To: 2400, 30 Nov 1944

Bn remained in positions in Gerweiller on 30 minute alert in CCA Reserve. C Company attached to 48th Tk Bn for use in W Column of CCA. One 105 Howitzer from AG Platoon attached to 62 AIB for use in clearing road block in front of St Pierre.

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# S-1 ANNEX TO UNIT HISTORICAL REPORT

1. During the month of November 1944, the following casualties were sustained by the 29th Tank Battalion:

a. Killed in action:

(1) Officers: One (1)
(2) EM : Two (2)

b. Missing in action:

(1) Officers: None (0)
(2) EM : One (1)

c. Wounded in action:

(1) Officers: One (1)
(2) EM : Twenty-one (21)

d. Non-Battle Casualties:

(1) Officers: Two (2)
(2) EM : Eleven (11)

e. Captured: None (0)

2. Prisoners of War: ~~None (0)~~ Twenty (20)

3. Roster of Key Personnel:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Commanding Officer: | Major | Ernest G. Watson | 0249093 |
| Executive Officer: | Major | Howard E. Philips | 0229094 |
| S-3: | Major | William L. Shedd, III | 024971 |
| S-2: | Capt | James J. Scanlan | 0313389 |
| S-3 (Air): | Capt | Perry F. Patton | 0379736 |
| S-4: | Capt | Neil K. Swift | 0416198 |
| S-1: | 1st Lt | Gordon N. O'Donnell | 01014670 |
| Liaison Officer: | 1st Lt | Willard V. Horne | 0436573 |
| Bn Surgeon: | 1st Lt | Lloyd I. Senton | 01705576 |
| Co Comdr Hq Co: | Capt | Roy S. Printup | 0291617 |
| Co Comdr A Co: | Capt | Thomas M. Lasater | 0450455 |
| Co Comdr B Co: | Capt | Grenville T. Emmet, Jr | 01016133 |
| Co Comdr C Co: | Capt | Andrew W. Kiniarczyk | 01010883 |
| Co Comdr D Co: | Capt | William D. Smith | 0374149 |
| Co Comdr Ser Co: | Capt | Arnold H. Green | 01010767 |

4. During the month of November 1944, the following promotions were effected within the command:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st/Sgt | Frank L. Reissner | 35569896 | Hq Co |
| 1st/Sgt | Robert A. Kohals | 35711198 | Ser Co |
| S/Sgt | John H. Bryant | 39853358 | Hq Co |
| S/Sgt | Salvatore A. Frio | 32589255 | ~~Co D~~ Ser Co |
| S/Sgt | John P. Wilson | 34593127 | Co B |
| S/Sgt | Felix J. Neff | 37246905 | Co C |
| S/Sgt | Robert R. McClarren | 35615829 | Co D |
| Tec 3 | Paul F. Dunigan | 37334470 | Med Det |

SOP NORMAL FORMATION 25TH TANK BN. IN COLUMN ON R[illegible] EFFECTIVE 20 NOV 1944.

| | |
|---|---|
| Rcn | 1-D-25 |
| Point | 1-A-25<br>1-B-62 |
| Adv Party | CO A-25<br>AG Platoon<br>1-C-25 |
| Support | CO 25<br>S-3 25<br>FO<br>2-B-62<br>A-25 (-) |
| Main Body | Rcn 25<br>Ex O 25<br>Msg Cntr<br>2 Peeps Med<br>Mort Platoon<br>3-B-62<br>B-25<br>C-25<br>A-500<br>Med 25 (-)<br>Hq Co 25 (-)<br>Sv 25 |
| R Guard | D-25 (-) |

SUMMARY OF VEHICLES LOST DURING PERIOD.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 Tk M4 w/105 How | Captured |
| 1 Tk M4 w/76 Gun | Hit by AT gun & burned |
| 1 Tk M4 w/76 Gun | Hit by AT gun & burned |
| 1 Tk M4 w/75 Gun | Hit by AT gun & bazooka & burned. |
| 1 Tk M4 w/76 Gun | Hit by bazooka, not repairable |
| 1 Tk M4 w/76 Gun | Hit by bazooka & burned |
| 1 Tk M4 w/75 Gun | Hit by bazooka & repaired. |

| | |
|---|---|
| 20 Nov | B-25 attached to 62 AIB |
| 23 Nov | B-25 reverted back to 25 control |
| 23 Nov | B-62 reverted back to 62 control |
| 26 Nov | A-62 returned to 25 control |
| 28 Nov | C-25 attached to 62 AIB |
| 29 Nov | B-62 returned to 62 control |
| 30 Nov | C-25 from 62 control to 48 control. |

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25th Tank Bn.

Watson

# COMBAT LESSONS

I.

A. Organization for Combat:

1. Tank Battalion should operate as a Battalion under Combat Command control and not be split down into companies. Neither should the Infantry Battalion be broken down to companies. When the situation required Infantry, then the Combat Commander would have at his disposal an entire Battalion to use on short notice. In this way the attack could be confined to one unit and all necessary elements for battle would be readily available.

B. Normal Attachments:

1. Tank Battalion should not be split up by attaching companies to other outfits nor should just one Infantry Company be attached to a Tank Battalion. (see A). Other normal attachments should be one platoon of Engineers when the Battalion is in the lead. It is felt that Ren Platoons from Cavalry Ren Squadron should not be attached to Tank Battalions but left under Troop and Squadron control for better control and results. Artillery support worked very well with all Batteries under Battalion control and not attached or supporting by themselves. It is felt that if Liaison Officer or NCO's were attached to leading elements from Division there would be a much clearer picture of the situation in the hands of Division G-3 at all times.

C. Communications, Modifications, Codes, Etc.

1. Radio communication within a Tank Battalion is very good. This is by means of SCR-508 and 528 radios. Communication with attached Infantry is by SCR-300 and also works well. The attached Engineers should have an SCR-508 mounted in a peep. The SCR-510 is unsatisfactory. Radio communication with Higher Headquarters is poor because of the time required to send coded messages and if sent by CW radio in a moving situation have to be retransmitted to CO in forward position causing additional delay.

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C. Communications, Modifications, Codes, Etc (cont'd)

The Combat Command should be far enough forward to transmit directly to CO in his tank by FM radio. There is practically no provision for wire communication in a tank battalion. However, wherever used it is much more satisfactory than radio. A Battalion Wire Section has been found to be the most satisfactory. Requirements for this Section include the following: Three (3) wiremen (includes driver of vehicle); either a 3/4-ton truck or a Weasel with 1/4-ton trailer; necessary wire kits, climbers, RL-31, etc. Peep messengers are more satisfactory than radio for messages to Higher Headquarters and more messengers should be provided. The codes used within a tank battalion are too slow and were practically never used. The M-209 is good but slow.

D. Flank Protection:

1. Offensive:

a. Radio contact with adjacent units is necessary and wherever possible, actual physical contact should be made. All elements should know what to expect on their flanks and the location of friendly units.

b. Use of competent liaison officers who should contact the headquarters of flank units and inform commanders of the plan and direction of attack so that the maximum benefit could be derived from coordinating them.

c. Use of artillery for flank protection:

(1) Forward observers should be spotted on flanks of attacking units so immediate fire could be brought on any enemy attempt to attack or turn the flank.

(2) Artillery should fire interdictory fire on all probable enemy approaches from the flank.

(3) Exposed flanks should be smoked to obscure enemy vision. This is very effective if sufficient well placed smoke is used. We found in some cases where smoke was not provided in sufficient quantities to completely obscure enemy vision and we suffered casualties because of it.

d. Flank Guards:

(1) All units must provide their own flank guards regardless of what other precautions they may have taken to secure their flanks. This guard may consist of a tank platoon, mounted infantry, reconnaissance elements, or all of these units with artillery support.

(2) Liaison planes also provide excellent protection on the flanks because of their ability to see the enemy before he approaches within striking distance.

2. Defensive:

a. Actual physical contact must be made with adjacent units. This would also serve to tie-in protective fires.

b. Secondary means of contact such as radio, wire communication, runner or liaison are also essential.

c. A large fast, mobile reserve is necessary as a counter-attacking force in case of a penetration.

d. Artillery should register protective fires on both flanks if they are exposed. In this capacity, interdictory fire is the most effective.

e. Patrols should operate on both flanks, if exposed, to see if there are enemy preparations there. Where there are friendly units on our flanks these patrols can maintain contact with them and prevent any infiltrations.

R...

E. Use of Assault Guns:

1. The Assault Guns of the tank battalion must be grouped together and employed as a battery to achieve maximum effect. They are the close support artillery of the battalion and in the normal tactical situation the three assault guns of the medium tank companies should be placed under the control of the assault gun platoon leader. When the tank battalion has artillery in direct support the assault guns should use the same system of check points; if no artillery is supporting the battalion the assault gun platoon leader should furnish all elements with a system of check points to aid in quickly placing fire on the desired targets. The assault guns should march well forward in the battalion, preferrably behind the leading tank company. When artillery support is present the movement of the assault guns should be coordinated with that of the artillery; artillery or assault guns in position, the other displacing forward. When the battalion is deployed requests for fire should be coordinated through the Battalion S-3; when the battalion is moving forward along a road the Advance Guard Commander should request support directly from the Assault Gun Platoon. Tank and infantry platoon leaders are the logical forward observers for the assault guns. When no artillery is in support the assault guns should be displaced forward three guns at a time so that three guns are in position at all times. Because of its slow rate of fire and hand traverse it has been found best to keep tank protection ahead of the assault guns.

F. Improvised Modification of Weapons and Equipment:

1. Weapons:

a. Safety device on all Sub-Machine Guns, cal .45, M-3.

2. Equipment:

a. Sand bags on tanks.

b. Racks on rear of tanks.

c. Mount for Machine Gun, cal .30, on turret of tanks directly in front of Tank Commander.

d. Racks on rear of Half-Tracks.

e. Wire catcher on front bumper of 1/4-ton trucks.

f. Mount for Machine Gun, cal .30, on 1/4-ton trucks.

G. Weapons Other Than Those Provided By T/O & E:

The following additional weapons are recommended:

1. One multiple rocket gun per tank company.

2. One flame thrower (in tank) per tank company.

3. One Machine Gun, cal .30, for mount on tank turret directly in front of tank commander.

4. Each member of tank crew to be armed with pistol, cal .45.

5. Each tank to be equipped with two Sub-Machine Guns, cal .45.

6. One Machine Gun, cal .30 for each 1/4-ton truck.

H. Employment of I & R Platoons:

1. When the Battalion is in defensive position, personnel of the platoon can be effectively used to establish listening posts and OP's. In all instances, direct communication should be maintained between these points and the CP. In one instance, the 300 series radio established fine communication. Although members of the platoon acted as FO's on several occasions, it is felt that greater emphasis should be placed on the training of the personnel so that all sensing will be uniform. The mission of reconnoitering routes was frequently given the platoon. Lack of sufficient enemy information from higher headquarters handicapped operations. On missions of this kind, the I & R Platoon should be equipped with the M-8 Armored Car rather than the 1/4-ton truck. The use of greater fire power and the protective armor of this vehicle would insure the success of the mission. When used as liaison between adjacent units, the platoon should operate in sections, to provide mutual support. Too frequently only one 1/4-ton was employed, mainly due to lack of vehicles and personnel on other missions.



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Enlarging the I&R Platoon to thirty (30) men and adding two (2) 1/4-ton trucks to the present T/O & E would do much to alleviate this condition. In attack, the platoon can be used to evacuate PW's. A section may be used as the point only after a break-through is established and it is known that the enemy is disorganized.

I. Coordination of Tanks and Infantry:

1. Liaison:

a. There should be the closest liaison between the tank and infantry headquarters. This officer should have a thorough knowledge of the employment of armor.

2. Prior Planning:

a. Before a combined attack of tanks and infantry, the infantry commander should consult the tank unit commander as to the best role armor can play in the attack.

3. Reconnaissance:

a. Sufficient time should be allowed the tank unit commander to make his own reconnaissance. What may be good and adequate reconnaissance for the infantry may be of little value to the tanks. This can be eliminated by having the tank and infantry commanders make the reconnaissance together.

4. Communication:

a. The 300 series radio is excellent, except there is only one in an infantry platoon. Hand signals, or better yet, colored grenades should be used to designate the targets to the tankers. Frequently, the communication set-up is not known to all the infantrymen, thereby resulting in a loss of time in getting the needed fire power.

b. Tankers should practically never, button up. This makes the use of visual signals very practical in that they can be seen very readily.

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5. Attack:

a. [illegible] fire is to be expected, [illegible] tanks should lead with the infantry mounted on the tanks. When antitank fire is met, the infantry dismount and eliminate it, with the tanks giving supporting fire against the enemies' small arms.

b. The infantrymen should remain with the tank at all times to give it the needed protection while the rest of the men dismount.

c. With the infantry leading, the tanks should be about 400 yards behind to give close-in supporting fire. Tankers can eliminate machine gun nests and other fire that holds the infantry from advancing.

d. When attacking a fortified position, tanks fire steadily into the firing slits of the pillbox while the infantry assault teams work their way forward with demolitions. The fire is lifted when it endangers the infantry.

e. Tanks should not be employed at night because there is too much danger of hitting our troops, lack of visibility and restriction of the freedom of maneuver.

f. Indirect fire cannot be successfully accomplished by armor when it is within small arms range. Surveys must be made and stakes driven for accurate fire and this is difficult to accomplish under fire.

6. Defense:

a. The use of tanks in defense is to serve as a counter-attacking force in case of a penetration. Armor, through its mobility, and fire power, can prevent any serious breakthrough, if located close enough to the defensive position.

b. Tanks can also supplement AT guns by locating in hull-defilade positions.

c. While out of small arms range, in the defensive, tanks can be accurately set up to fire indirectly.



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b. Security:

a. At night, infantry should be dug-in about 50 yards in front of the tanks. This prevents raiding parties from infiltrating through our lines to [illegible] armor. This does not relieve the tank commander from being responsible for his own security.

b. If sufficient daylight exists when the position is taken, tankers can set up their own defensive fires by having a make-shift range card.

c. There is a tendency for tankers to button up at night. This can prove serious in case the tank is needed in a hurry.

c. Supply:

a. Supply of infantry and tanks is entirely different. Infantry commanders must realize that armor cannot be resupplied in the front lines. They must be allowed to be pulled back, a section or platoon at a time, for the purpose of resupplying.

d. Coordination of Artillery Support:

1. The coordination of Artillery Support is handled through the Artillery Liaison Officer and the Battalion S-3. It requires a definite fire plan for each major objective. Through the liaison officer the S-3 can request artillery support from all available units up to and including Corps Artillery, if available. Normally the Liaison Officer will submit a plan from the artillery unit in direct support which will give a series of check points which all units in the attack can use when requesting fire. It is essential that these check points be given to all unit commanders in addition to the regularly assigned forward observers from the artillery. The battalion commander can request for air observation, this request is handled by the liaison officer. The forward observers in conjunction with the liaison officer should be prepared to submit a plan of defensive fires to the battalion commander; this plan for defensive fires is especially important when the unit is halted for the night and is occupying a position in close contact with the enemy.

R

K. Village Fighting:

1. When we approached a village we quickly determined whether the enemy was going to defend the village or had pulled out. This was determined by our reconnaissance as they approached the village; if the inhabitants were on the street we were sure the enemy had pulled out, however, if the streets were deserted we were sure the enemy was going to defend. When it was apparent that the village was occupied by the enemy we called for an artillery preparation to keep the enemy in the cellars and away from their guns until our tanks and infantry could gain a foothold. Our attacking force of tanks and infantry jumped off immediately upon the lifting of the preparation, the infantry moving forward in their half-tracks close behind the tanks. When the streets were wide enough we employed the two leading tanks abreast to give mutual support and cover each others blind spot. Before going into the village the leading tanks would be given definite assignments; one tank would cover the right side of the street, another the left. As soon as the tanks had gained a foothold in the town, the infantry would quickly start clearing the houses along the axis of advance; it was found that unless this was done that as soon as the tanks and other armored vehicles had passed through the enemy would come out of their cellars and attack the battalion combat trains and cut them off from the leading elements. We used both the bow and co-axial machine guns of the leading tanks to spray the streets, the tank guns were used to fire into the buildings at close range. It was found that it was difficult to use the guns of any but the lead tanks because of danger of hitting our own infantry. Village fighting takes close cooperation of the tanks and infantry. The SCR 300 radio was used as a means of communication between the tanks and infantry; it was also found that the platoon leader of the infantry and the platoon leader of the tank platoon must keep close together so as to give each other immediate support. As soon as the tank-infantry team gained the far edge of the village immediate reorganization was effected and the village [illegible] while preparations were made to continue the advance.

L. Reconnaissance, Including Combat Reconnaissance:

1. The R&R Platoon of a tank battalion cannot be effectively used for combat reconnaissance in its present organic state. In the only instance where the platoon could have been used in this manner, a platoon of light tanks were given the mission because of its fire power and the nature of the terrain.

M. Supply and Evacuation:

1. Resupply should be effected whenever possible.

2. Class I: Three (3) days dry rations should be carried on all vehicles.

3. Trains:

a. Combat Trains:

(1) A combat train consisting of one (1) water truck, three (3) fuel and Lub trucks and three (3) ammunition trucks with additional small arms ammunition necessary to resupply an attached Infantry Company should be organised and made a part of the Battalion Maintenance Platoon.

(2) Kitchen trucks should be under Battalion control at all times.

b. Service Trains:

(1) Service Trains should be bivouaced under control of Combat Command for protection but released upon request to Battalion.

(2) Two (2) Fuel and Lub trucks and two (2) ammunition trucks should be attached to a Tank Company upon its detachment from the parent organisation to an Infantry Battalion.

(3) Service Trains of an Infantry Company do not need to accompany the Company when it is attached to a Tank Battalion.

4. Evacuation:

a. Vehicles: Ordnance Evacuation Units should be established close behind front line elements to pick up disabled vehicles as rapidly as possible.

b. Personnel:

(1) Two (2) ambulances from the Division Clearing Station should be attached to each Battalion Aid Station.

(2) Road Fighting Formation: In march columns two (2) litter peeps should be following the command vehicle for close liaison for the location of the wounded and go forward immediately to treat and evacuate the wounded personnel to the Battalion Aid Station. The Battalion Aid Station should be located as close to the front of the column as practical under tactical conditions.

(3) Deployed Situation: In a deployed situation the Battalion Aid Station should be located near the Battalion Command Post and along a good axis of advance.

H. <u>Coordination of Combat Effort:</u>

1. Reconnaissance:

a. Reconnaissance should be vigorous and aggressive. Reconnaissance information should, immediately, be forwarded to the commander concerned. This information helps in planning the attack and assures the success of the mission.

b. Vertical reconnaissance, i.e., liaison plane, has been badly neglected. It serves a two-fold purpose. It can see so far ahead of ground reconnaissance and can spot things from the air where they are not visible from the ground. While it is hovering over column, it can alsosee any targets that may interfere with the attack. In this manner, observation is already in the air and artillery fire may be brought on the target, immediately.

2. Infantry:

a. Infantry is very necessary for the successful operation of a tank unit. [illegible] tanks or infantry lead, depends upon the situation. Where there [illegible] tank-infantry operation, both commanders should plan together, as to [illegible] and extent of the attack. In this manner, each arm will be employed to its [illegible].

b. With the infantry leading, tanks normally follow at a distance of about [illegible]. When the infantry is held up by automatic weapons fire, tank fire can immediately be brought to bear on the target. Tanks also give a large volume of supporting fire.

c. When tanks are leading, the infantry normally follows almost directly in the rear of the tanks. Thus they get the maximum protection from them.

d. In a column formation, infantry may be mounted on the tanks or following the leading platoon in half-tracks. When hostile AT guns are located, the infantry dismounts and eliminates them.

e. The greatest difficulty in past operations has been a case of not enough infantry.

3. Tank Units:

a. Tank units assist infantry and other foot troops they are supporting by neutralizing or destroying hostile automatic weapons likely to hold up the advance of foot troops.

b. They make passages through wire and anti-personnel mine fields. Destroying hostile reserves and artillery formations in the battle area.

c. Tank units also assist the infantry by breaking up hostile counter-attacks.

4. Artillery:

a. Effective artillery support of a tank attack requires detailed plans. These are made in a conference of the tank unit commander and the artillery commander. These plans cover the protection of the flanks, areas to be covered by fire and a time schedule of fires.

b. A system of check points for calling artillery fire has proven the best method. Sufficient time and maps should be allowed to get this information to all the tank and infantry commanders.

c. Preparation fires are requested on areas known or believed to contain antitank weapons. Smoke may be used to blind hostile observation points and antitank guns.

d. Artillery furnishes direct support to the leading tank echelons.

e. Fire support is accomplished by an artillery liaison officer who follows the attack closely in a tank accompanying the tank unit commander, and by means of radio requests fire.

5. Support Weapons of A Tank Unit:

a. Mortars.

(1) Mortars should be used more frequently than they were in recent operations. It is a valuable weapon and is particularly useful in providing smoke missions to the flanks or to blind enemy observation posts. Communication is by radio direct to the battalion commander. Mortars should be placed well forward because of their limited range.

b. Assault Guns:

(1) Assault guns were used to the best advantage. They were used to supplement artillery fire. There were some instances where artillery communication could not be established and assault gun fire was brought to bear with excellent results. They were employed as a battery of six guns and fired indirectly.

c. These two weapons provide the battalion commander with his own artillery. Their fire is used to supplement the artillery rather than replace it. Must be coordinated with infantry and artillery supporting weapons.

6. Aviation:

a. Observation is of great value in maintaining liaison between units and commanders. It also helps to locate friendly units and is invaluable as a reconnaissance agency.

b. Bombardment aviation is highly desirable for employment of tank units against organized objectives. This type of fire support was not used as frequently as it could have been. Particularly was this true in attacking a heavily fortified position.

c. Missions are requested through the accompanying air liaison officer.

7. Engineers:

a. Engineer assistance must be requested in time to allow engineer reconnaissance and preparations to be made. Stream crossings are improved or constructed, mine fields cleared and demolition work is performed.

b. Bridging material must be carried close enough to be called for in a very short time. In recent operations even though bridges were known to be out there was always too much delay before the material arrived from well in the rear.

c. These engineer operations are coordinated with the scheme of maneuver so that supporting troops neutralize hostile troops interfering with engineering projects.

8. Tank Destroyers:

a. Tank destroyers were used as a reserve to repel hostile counter-attacks and as supplementing fire against enemy armor. In a rallying point, they covered likely avenues of approach of enemy armor and also used as fire power on road blocks.

b. The commander of this unit must be consulted by the task force commander in order to derive the maximum benefit from these weapons.

Fr: 0001, 1 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 1 Dec 1944

Bn still in CCA reserve. Moved out at 1230 to St Pierre and set up CP in house in center of town. Recn Platoon, B-94, made reconnaissance of woods west of Erfig in which civilians reported German arty Btry set up. Reported that Btry had left this position. B Co attached to 410 Inf Regt, 103d Inf Div, late in afternoon.

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Fr: 0001, 2 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 2 Dec 1944

Bn in assembly area in town of St Pierre. CP in house in center of town. C Company still attached to 48th Tk Bn, further attached from 48 to 409 Inf Regt, 103d Div. Supported Inf in operation vic .
Action involved 10 tanks pulling on line and firing for 30 minutes into enemy automatic weapons position. Tanks then withdrew behind Inf lines and Inf continued forward through area in which tanks had fired. Perfect coordination was obtained between tanks and Inf by use of AN/PRC-300 Radio. Remainder of Bn spent this time on maintenance of vehicles & weapons, resupply. Three replacement tanks received. Men cleaned personal equipment and clothing and devoted considerable time to personal cleanliness.

2200- Warning order received, "be prepared to move to area vic Hochfelden to join Div." Bn placed on 1/2 hour alert beginning 0700.

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Fr: 0001, 3 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 3 Dec 1944

Bn alerted at 0700. Maintenance of weapons and vehicles and personal equipment continues. C Co reverted back to Bn control with no losses in men or material during this period of detachment.

1500- Order received to pull out at 1700 to move to vic Hockfelden. Route via Obernai, Molsheim, Hockfelden. Bn marched blackout. Order of march 1-D-25, A-25, Hq & Hq Co, B-25, C-25, Med Det, Maint, D-25 (-). Bn closed in biv area vic Reidheim at 2230. CP established in school house.

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Fr: 0001, 4 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 4 Dec 1944

Bn spent morning relocating companies to allow more room in biv area. Mission of Bn at this time while awaiting further orders is rehabilitation, rest and maintenance. Bn Maintenance began welding racks on tanks for sand bags and A& BRC radios. Division Commander visited CP at 1130. Bn Commander promoted to Lt Colonel. Bivouac area approx 12 to 18 miles behind front.

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Fr: 0001, 5 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 5 Dec 1944

Bn in bivouac area in Reidheim. Work started on sand bagging all tanks and peeps. Maintenance going on all the time.

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Fr: 0001, 6 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 6 Dec 1944

In bivouac area in Reidheim. All tks and peeps sand bagged. Maintenance being carried on. Following message received from CO CCA, "Div order move 1 Plat Med Tks combat loaded at approx 1700 to reinforce 94. Move platoon via Brumath - Weyersheim - Hoerdt. 94 guide meet Plat Weyersheim. Plat to be attached to 94 upon arrival." 2-B-25 (Lt Hyde) moved out at 1715 to proceed on assigned mission.

**S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN**

**6 December 1944(contd)**

Order received from CCA to conduct a non firing demonstration based on our recent battle experience, to improve the technique of armor attacking and passing through towns. Points to be stressed:

a. Reconnaissance
b. Approach by assault elements
c. Use of sup orting elements.
d. Attack & passage of armor through town.

Bn S-3, Major Shedd, drawing up plan for demonstration.

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Fr: 0001, 7 Dec 1944
To: [illegible], 7 Dec 1944

2-B-25 (Lt Hyde) still attached to 94th in vic [illegible]. Fired approx 26 rounds large cal ammo on town of Caubsheim. Received small amount of [illegible] fire from town of Caubsheim, believed to be 88's. Bn continued on [illegible] vehicles [illegible]. Vehicles being named and names painted on [illegible] vehicles. Non firing demonstration conducted by Maj Shedd for [illegible] CCA. ([illegible] plan was followed in conducting demonstration).

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Fr: 0001, 8 Dec 1944
To: [illegible], 8 Dec 1944

2-B-25 (Lt Hyde) returned to [illegible] control. Arrived in [illegible] at 1815. [illegible] used [illegible] but [illegible] vehicles or personnel casualties. [illegible] (B Co) operated [illegible] night of 8 Dec in town [illegible]:

1st Platoon - [illegible] 2100-[illegible]
2nd Platoon - [illegible] 22[illegible]
3rd Platoon - [illegible]ordt [illegible]00-0100, 9 Dec

[illegible] continually during tour [illegible], occasionally racing motors and creating noise to [illegible] a large concentration of [illegible]. [illegible] 22 [illegible]. [illegible] half track went to [illegible] to report 25 [illegible] station in CCA net. [illegible] and [illegible] roads, bridges and [illegible] in, [illegible], [illegible]. [illegible] to locate roads, [illegible] suitable for movement of armored vehicles. Report of [illegible].

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Fr: 0001, 9 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 9 Dec 1944

1100- [illegible] received from CCA, [illegible] to regroup in Road [illegible], two column, on 45 [illegible] notice [illegible] Dec 44. 3 1/4 [illegible] 3 H/Ts under [illegible] [illegible] during entire [illegible]. Vehicles [illegible] from [illegible] 1st [illegible] time [illegible]. Vehicles operated [illegible]. [illegible] to [illegible] and equipment. [illegible] is [illegible],

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RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
25TH TANK BATTALION
APO 446, US ARMY

6 December 1944

ASSAULT & PASSAGE OF ARMORED COLUMN THROUGH VILLAGES

**Plan of Operation**

1. **Object** - To demonstrate method for an armored column to pass through a town or village.

2. **Equipment & Troops** - 1 Med Tank Platoon
   1 Infantry Platoon
   1 Rcn Platoon
   1 Assault Gun Platoon
   2 MGs (dismounted)
   1 Light Tank (AT Gun)
   1 Mortar Platoon

3. **Place** - Imbsheim, France.

4. **Time** - Demonstration to take place at 1500, 7 Dec 1944.

5. **Attendance** - As ordered by Hq CC "A". Spectators to report to Northern edge of town of Imbsheim at 1445. Guide will meet units at that point.

6. **Demonstration** will be conducted in following manner:

   a. Column will be advancing N on main road from Printzheim to Imbsheim in following order:

   Rcn Platoon
   3-B-25 with
   1-A-62 riding on tanks
   AG Platoon 25
   CO B-25
   Mortar Platoon

Rcn Platoon moves close to edge of village of Imbsheim and runs into S/A and MG fire from houses in edge of village. Platoon immediately falls back to head of column which has halted behind ridge and reports situation to Platoon Leader of tank platoon. Platoon Leader of tank platoon then orders Infantry to dismount and deploy ready to move forward and reports to CO B-25 the situation. CO B-25 orders AG Platoon to go into position and lay fire on edge of town for 15 minutes. After AG Platoon has finished firing Infantry is orderedto move out to assault village. Infantry moves into village cleaning out house by house until they have gone about a block. At this time platoon leader, Inf Platoon, calls platoon leader of tank platoon and informs him village is clear for one block. Tank Plat then moves forward to edge of village and lays MG fire in houses on both sides of street ahead of infantry. Tanks support infantry from this point by fire ahead of infantry to keep enemy away from MGs. At this time CO B-25 orders Mortar Plat into position to fire on road leading out of town to North. Mortars fire until platoon leader of Infantry calls for lifting of fire through platoon leader, tank platoon. After town has been cleared in this manner Infantry takes up positions on Northern outskirts protected by tanks and sends back information for column to move forward.

OFFICIAL: SHEDD, S-3

WATSON
CO

TO BOUXWILLER

N

MG

MG

75
AT

TO PRINTZHEIM

SKETCH OF
IMBSHEIM
SCALE: APPROX. 1:5,000

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
25TH TANK BATTALION
APO 446, US ARMY

9 December 1944

SUBJECT: Zone Reconnaissance.

TO : Commanding Officer, CC "A", 14th Armored Division.

A Zone Reconnaissance was made on Friday, 8 Dec 1944, in connection with which the following information is submitted.

1. The highway BRUMATH - GEUDERTHEIN - BRITTLHEIM - EYERSHEIM - KURTZENHAUSEN is a fine two way hard surface road on which two way traffic forvehicles of all types can be moved.

2. The ground on either side of the highway is completely flat and open. In the vic of GEUDERTHEIN - BRITTLEHEIM - EYERSHEIM there are occasional orchards but otherwise there are no woods and the fields are entirely bare. The stream S of the highway is way over its banks and 75% of the ground S of the Hwy is under water. N of the Hwy the ground rises in a very gradual slope to the N and while not actually under water, this ground is extremely soft and muddy and it is not believed that medium tanks could get far off theroad. There are a number of cart trails to the N of the Hwy. All of these were reconnoitered and provednarrow lanes with room for only a single vehicle and very muddy. In many places a peep had difficulty in getting through.

3. The road S from BRUMATH to the point where it crosses the RR is a good two lane hard surface road.

4. From the point where the RR crosses the Hwy (Q986 094) there is no road following the line of the RR through HOERD - T[illegible]. The RR is a double tracked road with a fine road bed and it would be possible to move track vehicles over this road bed.

5. The road from KURTZENHAUSEN - [illegible]EITBRUCH is a single lane dirt road. The bottom is hard, however, and it is capable of holding medium tanks. The road leads over a ridge and portions of it are open to observation from the high wooded ridge NE of GRIES at present occupied by the enemy. Vehicles of the 79th Division have been fired upon along this road from the ridge NE of GRIES. The major portion of the road, however, is on a reverse slope and is thus covered from enemy observation.

Ltr, Zone Rcn, Hq 25 Tk [illegible], 9 Dec 44, contd.

6. To the South of [illegible] there is considerable high ground with numerous folds in the ground [illegible] cover from the enemy positions to the [illegible]. The area is [illegible] by a number of single lane trails. The whole area is so muddy and soft that it is not believed that medium tanks could operate over it. At the present there is considerable artillery in position scattered through the area and it was noted that none of the guns had ventured far off the road.

For the Battalion Commander:

[illegible] T. [illegible],
Captain, 25th Tank Bn,
S-2

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
25th TANK BATTALION
APO 446, US ARMY

9 December 1944

SUBJECT: Zone Reconnaissance.

TO : Commanding Officer, CC "A", 14th Armored Division.

1. All primary roads in the area are two lane and will hold tanks. Secondary roads are one lane with good beds but the ditches are soft. The wagon trails generally have good beds but are very narrow, one way, and the trail does not always follow its bed.

2. The AT defenses were few. Only one gun was encountered - caliber unknown - employed somewhere near the road block North of GRIES. From other information, CP 313th Inf, the gun was an SP or a tank. Measures were being taken to remove both block and gun. All other road blocks were either reduced or in the process of being reduced. All mines found are marked on overlay.

3. The railroad bed and bridges are passable for tanks as marked on overlay. At spot marked the tracks are blown but the bed has not been badly damaged.

4. The country off the roads is passable in places. General areas are marked on the overlay but final decision would rest with the tank and platoon commander. Vehicles could not track.

For the Battalion Commander:

JOHN W. DAY
2nd Lt, Cav.,
Rcn Officer.

S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BATTALION

Fr: 0001, 10 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 10 Dec 1944

Division placed on 6 hour alert at 1000. Radio nets opened and manned but no transmission. B Company to 62 control. A Company to CCA Reserve, 1-B-94, 1-C-125 and A-62 to 25 control. One platoon D Company (Lt Fraser) to 62 control. At 11[illegible] Bn SOP road fighting formation revised. (See Bn SOP road fighting formation). Capt Emmet and Section Ccn made reconnaissance of area vicinity Bischwiller. Results of reconnaissance shown on attached report.

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Fr: 0001, 11 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 11 Dec 1944

Bn remains on 6 hour alert. All attachments completed. Dozer blade installed on A Company tank. Dozer to be attached to C Company while in fighting formation. Three D Company tanks went to B-136 Ord to have belly plating welded on. Bn placed on three hour alert at 16[illegible]. Tentative FO for coming operation received from CCA. "14 AD attack to reach line Rhine - Lauter Rivers. Pass through 103 Div on order. 79 Div on right, 1[illegible] on left. CCA left of CCB. CCA march in one column from present bivouac. Attack initially in two columns. Objective; Block enemy escape in Haguenau - Forest of Haguenau. Formation 62, Hq & Hq CCA, 125 (-), 25, Reserve. 25 attack along Soulz, Leiterswiller, Stundwiller, [illegible]intsenbach, Lauterbourg.

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Fr: 0001, 12 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 12 Dec 1944

Bn designated "Alert Bn" by Div from 180[illegible], 12 Dec to 1759, 13 Dec. One Company to be prepared to move to any area in division area within 30 minutes. Bn be prepared to move to same area in two hours. Bn placed on 1 hour alert at 10[illegible]. Order received by Liaison Officer to be prepared to move out at 080[illegible], 13 Dec, route Hochfelden, Haguenau, Surbourg, Soultz. Bn CO to CCA Hq for order at 16[illegible]. Unit COs called in and given order to move at 0[illegible], 13 Dec 1944 by Bn CO.

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Fr: 0001, 13 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 13 Dec 1944

Bn left [illegible]lhein at 0745, objective, Wissembourg. Left in road fighting formation. Bn column on road all day and passed through towns of Hochfelden, Haguenau and arrived at Surbourg at 1[illegible]. Bn CP set up in house on outskirts of Surbourg at 1900. Town of Schwabwiller outposted by 1-[illegible]-94, 1-A-62, 3-D-25. No contact with enemy during day.

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Fr: 0001, 14 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 14 Dec 1944

Moved out from Surbourg in road fighting column at [illegible]. Captured town of [illegible]rafwiller, open. Column held up by blown bridge at Y161 455 at 1340. Bridge constructed by Engrs and completed at 1715 and column moved out. Bridge broke at 1[illegible]. Column arrived [illegible]bach at 1[illegible] and Bn CP established in RR Station, outskirts Hunspach. During night Inf patrols operated in town of Oberseebach. One prisoner captured in town of Hunspach. During day took towns of Hermerswiller, Hoffen, Hunspach.

HEADQUARTERS
25TH TANK BATTALION
APO 446, US ARMY

11 December 1944

SUBJECT: [illegible] Reconnaissance.

TO : Commanding Officer, CC "A", 14th Armored Division.

1. The following information was made from Reconnaissance in the vic of BISCHWILLER on 10 Dec 1944.

2. The Regimental CP of the 313 Infantry was located in a cellar at R 090 182.

3. The town had been substantially cleared of the enemy although there were indications that a few isolated snipers remained.

4. The bridge across the Moder had been captured intact the previous day and medium tanks and tank destroyers were moved across it successfully.

5. One round of enemy artillery, estimated 88mm, fell in vicinity of the bridge at approximately 1200 hours. No other artillery fire was reported in the vicinity of the bridge between the hours 1100 and 1330.

6. S-3 of 313 Inf reported that approximately 260 rounds of enemy artillery fell in the town of BISCHWILLER between the hours 2300, 9 Dec and 0600, 10 Dec.

7. 2 Bn 313 Inf was engaged in a fire fight with the enemy in the vic of woods at R 082 198 between the hours of 1000 and 1130. Thereafter, the enemy withdrew and 2 Bn 313 continued to attack to the NE.

8. 3 Bn 313 was in contact with the enemy in OBERHOFFEN during the morning. The enemy was dug in in the woods N of OBERHOFFEN and offered strong resistance. An AT gun was reported on the highway on the outskirts NW OBERHOFFEN. At approximately 1200 1 Bn 313 which had been supporting 2 Bn 313 moved in behind 3 Bn 313 prepared to pass through and continue the attack to the NE.

9. At approximately 1300 a patrol reported enemy artillery firing from the NW edge of ROHRWILLER.

10. The 315 Inf advanced during the morning from WEITBRUCH to MARTENTHAL without contact wwith the enemy. By 1230 one Bn was in KALTENHOUSE where only light small arms fire was encountered and it was contemplated to continue the attack to the NE.

11. The 314 Inf was in contact with the enemy in vic SW outskirts of HAGENAU.

12. The woods NE of WEIBRUCH - GRIES were reported cleared of the enemy.





56

13. It was reported that 5 or 6 enemy tanks had been operating in the vicinity of BISCHWILLER during the night of 8 December.

14. The road from BISCHWILLIER * MARIENTHAL was cleared of enemy but the portion from the edge of the woods 067 192 to the RR 078 191 had not been cleared of mines at 1400.

15. During the period 8 - 9 December 137 enemy prisoners were captured in the [illegible] GRIES and the vicinity of BISCHWILLER, among whom the following identifications were made:

| Unit | No. | | Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| Battle Group Eskimo | | | |
| 2d Co AT Repl Bn 33 | 54 | men captured in | Bois De Gries |
| 2d March Co 553 Engr Bn | 19 | " | |
| 553 Fusilier Squadron | 3 | " | |
| 1 & 4 Btry, 261 AA Bn | 34 | " | Bischwiller |
| 1553 AT Bn | 5 | " | Hanhoffen |
| 256 VG Div | | | |
| Hq Co 456 VG Regt | 7 | " | N of Bischwiller |
| 6th Co 456 VG Regt | 4 | " | Bois De Gries |
| 2d Co 256 Engr Bn | 9 | " | " |
| 9th Btry 256 Arty Regt | 1 | " | " |

The PWs included a 1st Lt who had been in command of the Battle Group Eskimo, and who reported that all units of the group had been committed in the woods E of the GRIES MARIENTHAL Road. It appeared that the group consisted largely of stragglers and small units who had become cut off or detached in the course of the withdrawal of the main body from Saverne. These troops had been collected in the vicinity of Haguenau and reformed into the Battle Group Eskimo. The captured officer reported that these groups had no orders indicating a withdrawal to the Rhine River. It was also reported that a unit designated as the 553 Div was being reformed in the Rastatt Etlingen area. The SOI of the 256 VG Div was captured by 313 Inf in Bischwiller.

For the Battalion Commander:

GRENVILLE T. [illegible],
Capt, 25th Tk Bn,
S-2

Fr: 0001, 15 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 15 Dec 1944

Inf patrols in town of Oberseebach returned at 0700, reported town of Oberseebach clear. Column moved out from Hunspach at 0730, took towns of Oberseebach and Ingolsheim and bridge crossing over RR at 172 455. On road on outskirts of Oberseebach, small undefended road block encountered which was removed by Engrs immediately. Column continued on road toward Wissemburg. D Company platoon (Lt Klingfelter) head of column. Two leading tanks hit by German AT gun as they approached RR crossing at 172 455. Time 1030. At 1800 A-62 dug in along RR tracks at bridge (172 455), AG Plat, 1 Plat Lt tks, C-25, deployed off road South of RR to protect bridge over RR. Inf patrols were active during afternoon and one German tank knocked out by bazooka fire. Column received arty, mortar, and small arms fire in fairly great quantities about 1630. Enemy counterattack at 1630 with 6 tanks and was stopped. During day seized towns of Oberseebach, Ingolsheim and bridge crossing over RR at 172 455. Three Italian prisoners taken in Hunspach at 1000. Seven prisoners taken in Oberseebach. Attack halted at approximately 1800. During afternoon Mortar Plat went into position and fired approx 50 rounds on estimated AT position in vic Wissemburg.

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Fr: 0001, 16 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 16 Dec 1944

Attack jumped off at 0745 and column continued toward Wissemburg. Ran into RR overpass blown and blocking road at 146 474. Inf patrols entered Wissemburg at 1000. Road block cleared at 1100. Column moved in and occupied town of Altenstatt. Bridge blown across stream in Altenstatt at 171 480. Inf crossed stream and established bridgehead. Column moved back through Wissemburg bypassing blown bridge at 1500. Continued East in column toward Schweighofen. At 165 485, [illegible] road block encountered and removed by 1600. 1-C-94 remained in lead and continued toward Schweighofen. East of [illegible]hof, Plat C-25 (Lt Gisse) went to head of column and was fired on by AT guns estimated to be 88s, firing from west edge of Schweighofen. Time 1730. AT guns protected by small arms and automatic weapons fire. No tanks were seen. Lt Gisse moved platoon back to defilade position and delivered fire on town of Schweighofen. AG Plat fired on town. At close of day front line at 177 488. Line outposted by Inf and one platoon of C Company. During night arty fired heavy concentration on Schweighofen. [illegible] set up on [illegible] edge of Wissemburg.

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Fr: 0001, 17 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 17 Dec 1944

Attack continued at 0745 and column moved through town of Schweighofen at 1035. Received AT, Arty and small arms fire from Kapsweyer. At 1130 all vehicles (- tks) moved back vic Oberseebach to allow bombers to bomb fortification vic Steinfeld. Medium bombers over at 1215 - 1230. Ineffective to 25 as points bombed were [illegible] of Steinfeld. In early afternoon Inf moved into Kapsweyer. Heavy enemy arty, Mortar and small arms fire delivered on Kapsweyer at 1530. Kapsweyer occupied and advance elements (C-25) [illegible] toward Steinfeld. Dragons teeth obstacles encountered on West edge of Steinfeld and beyond obstacle large crater in road. Plans made for reconnaissance to dragons teeth and for Engrs to go forward to [illegible] demolition on dragons teeth.

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Fr: 0001, 18 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 18 Dec 1944

[illegible] still in Kapsweyer. [illegible] platoon C Company at South edge of Kapsweyer. [illegible] platoon B Company on East edge of town. D Company [illegible] of town, A-62 (-) to W [illegible]. AG Plat on S edge of town. At 0100 a ten man patrol plus [illegible] Men of Plat Ldr made reconnaissance thru the dragons teeth on West edge of Steinfeld. This patrol went through the dragons teeth and found that there were seven rows. At 0200 the Engr platoon with Sqd of Inf went forward to blow out dragons teeth. When through last row of obstacles, drew heavy MG and small arms fire. Were unable to continue under such heavy fire and were forced to withdraw. While in this position captured one German sentinel. At 0830 one [illegible] Plat went practically to edge of dragons teeth to fire and observe fire on pillboxes in rear of dragons teeth.

Fr: 0001, 18 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 18 Dec 1944 (contd)

This drew heavy artillery fire and Lt Kirby and Sgt Colburn who were observing with the Battalion CO were hit by shrapnel. Lt Kirby seriously wounded. Heavy artillery fire caused withdrawal. Medium tanks and 105's fired intermittently during day on pillboxes and defenses with apparently no marked effect. During day Inf patrols were active in town attempting to clear out snipers. Corps Arty of 8" Howitzers and 155's fired numerous missions on Steinfeld during day. Our Arty (501) fired on Kapsweyer during day. Forward observer was in or near our CP and reported Arty hitting on target.

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Fr: 0001, 19 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 19 Dec 1944

Battalion remained in position in Kapsweyer with CP in West edge of town. 76's from C Company and 105 from AG Plat continued firing on pillboxes during morning. Capt Winiarczyk reported that the 75's were ineffective on pillboxes but 76's made penetrations. Heavy enemy Arty continued to fall on Kapsweyer and near CP. At 1000 eight P47's made bombing and strafing raid on Steinfeld. One plane dropped bombs in Kapsweyer approx 400 yards from our CP. At 1300 Bn was relieved by 48th and went to CCB control. Our Bn moved to vic Salmbach - Scheibenhal. This move was made by Platoon, one platoon moving out when platoon of 48 moved in to take its position. Move completed by 1730 and Bn CP setup in house in Salmbach. During night patrols from A-19 operated in woods to N & NW of Scheibenhal - Salmbach on CCB order.

Bn with attachments under CCB:

Bn Hq
Hq Co
B Co
C Co
D Co
Ser Co
Med
Bn Maint
2-B-125
A-19

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Fr: 0001, 20 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 20 Dec 1944

Bn changed positions and after changes A-19, C-25, Hq 25, B-25 in town of Scheibenhal; Bn CP established in School house in center of town. From 1630 - 1745 tanks from B-25, C-25, AG Plat employed indirect fire, firing on [illegible] and Schaidt. D-25 employed indirect fire firing on same towns from [illegible]. Others fired from BN [illegible] between Scheibenhal - Salmbach. Due to no [illegible], results of this fire could not be determined. Each large caliber fired 6 rounds each and .50 cal MG fired 200 rounds each. Firing prescribed by [illegible].

Fr: 0001, 21 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 21 Dec 1944

Bn in bivouac in town of Schleithal. Infantry patrols from A-19 operated in woods to N of Schleithal 24 hours a day. Patrol consisted of 1 Sect plus two men from 2-B-125. Patrols operating to NW contacted friendly elements in that direction. Previous patrols from A-19, made before, 25 was attached to CCB, found roads leading N, heavily blocked, numerous tank traps, and found several German patrols operating to the South. Woods found to be heavily mined.

At 2000 B Company fired 30 rounds of large cal ammunition per tank, indirect fire, on targets to North. Results of firing unknown due to no observation.

Tanks demonstrated at 2100 - 2300 at intervals, racing motors, backing and moving forward to give impression of large armor concentration forming.

Remaining time for men available, spent on maintenance of vehicles and weapons.

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Fr: 0001, 22 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 22 Dec 1944

Bn bivouaced in town of Schleithal. Patrols from A-19 operated to N during 24 hour period. Rcn Platoon maintained listening posts on Lauter River & vicinity on 24 hour schedule. Results of Inf patrols & listening posts negative.

Tanks from B-25 employed indirect fire at 1200, firing on targets to N in vic Steinfeld - Schaidt and in woods S of these towns. Tanks from C Company and AG Platoon fired indirect fire from vic Schleithal on targets to N and in vic Steinfeld - Schaidt. All tanks fired 20 rounds large cal ammunition each, 50 cal MGs fired 200 rounds each. Result of firing unknown.

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Fr: 0001, 23 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 23 Dec 1944

Bivouaced in Schleithal. Infantry patrols operated in woods N until 1300, at which time they were relieved. Tanks from C Company and AG Platoon fired indirect fire at 1400. Targets: Arty Btry, Regtl CP, and Inf dug in with MGs defending pill box. Position of targets obtained from PWs, Air observation and sounding. Results of firing unknown due to no observation. During day Bn partly relieved by 79th Inf Div. To be completely relieved tomorrow. Mortar Platoon fired 50 rounds on estimated targets to North at 1400.

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Fr: 0001, 24 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 24 Dec 1944.

Bn moved from Schleithal to Rittershoffen. Moved, beginning at 1700. Bn CP established in house on East edge of town. Relieved from position in Schleithal by 79th Division. Division went to VI Corps Reserve. Bn closed in Rittershoffen at 2220. Companies moved from Schleithal with 30 minute interval between companies.

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Fr: 0001, 25 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 26 Dec 1944

Bn bivouaced in Rittershoffen. All roads leading into town blocked and all persons entering are questioned and required to prove their identity. Alert maintained at all times due to enemy parachutist being dropped in 7th Army Area.

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[illegible]

S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 27 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 27 Dec 1944

Bn bivouaced in town of Rittershoffen. Town outposted and all persons entering town are checked for proper identification. Guards maintained 24 hours a day on all roads entering town. Roving patrol of Rcn Platoon 25 maintained on roads and in vicinity of town.

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Fr: 0001, 28 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 28 Dec 1944

Bn bivouaced in town of Rittershoffen. Town outposted and all persons entering town are checked for proper identification. Guards maintained 24 hours a day on all roads entering town. Roving patrol of Rcn Platoon 25 maintained on roads and in vicinity of town.

Training schedule put into effect by all companies running from 0830 to 1600. Following subjects stressed:

Dismounted Patrolling
Perfection of technique of Inf-Tank Team
Employment of Mortars
Massed fire and fields of fire
Mine and Booby Traps
Organization of Defensive Positions
Indirect fire by tanks

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Fr: 0001, 29 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 29 Dec 1944

Bn bivouaced in town of Rittershoffen. Town outposted and all persons entering town are checked for proper identification. Guards maintained 24 hours a day on all roads entering town. Roving patrol of Rcn Platoon 25 maintained on roads and in vicinity of town.

All Company Commanders, Plat Ldrs, Plat Sgts, Comm Sgts, Squad Ldrs of Rcn Plat, Bn Sgt Major, S-2 Sgt, S-3 Sgt, Motor Sgt, Bn S-2, Bn S-3, Bn Comm O, attended counter sabatage demonstration conducted by ETOUSA in Oberbetschdorf from 0900 - 1100.

Bn S-3, Company Commanders B & C Companies, reconnoitered routes and positions for indirect fire from vic Schafthouse.

At 1100 General Smith presented following awards to personnel of the Battalion.

<u>Silver Star Medal:</u> S/Sgt Preston M. [illegible]nsch, Med Det, for gallantry in action on 1[illegible] Dec 44.

<u>Bronze Star Medals:</u> Lt Col Ernest C. Watson, Bn Comdr, for meritorious achievement in action on 28 & 29 Nov and 17 Dec 44. Capt Lloyd I. Sexton, Med Det, for meritorious service in action during the period 25 Nov to 20 Dec 44. 1st Lt Morris Max, Ser Co, for meritorious service in action from 1 Nov to 27 Dec 44. 1st Lt John H. Martin, Hq Co, for heroic achievement in action on 27 Nov 44. 2nd Lt William A. Close, Co B, for heroic service in action on 19 Dec 44.

Fr: 29 Dec 1944, 0001
To: 29 Dec 1944, 2400
Continued

Bronze Star Medals (contd):
Sgt Wilfred F. Barton, Co B, for heroic service in action on 19 Dec 44. Sgt Edward H. Thomas, Co B, for heroic service in action on 19 Dec 44. Sgt Philip R. Torman, Co C, for heroic achievement on 18 Dec 44. Tec 4 Donald C. Yarbrough, Ser Co, for meritorious service in connection with military operations from 1 Nov to 4 Dec 44. Tec 5 Irvin L. Nissen, Ser Co, for meritorious service in connection with military operations from 1 Nov to 4 Dec 44.
Sgt Norman J. Hargraves, C Co, for heroic service in action on 19 Dec 44.

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Fr: 0001, 30 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 30 Dec 1944

Bn bivouaced in town of Wittershoffen. Town outpost [illegible] all persons entering town are checked for proper identification. Guards maintained 24 hours a day on all roads entering town. Roving patrol of Recon Platoon [illegible] maintained on roads in vicinity of town.

Warning order covering move from present position received at 1115.

Tanks from B Company fired indirect fire from Schafhouse at 1230. Targets Illinger [illegible]. Air observation was available and reported fire on targets.

At 1400 orders received to move to vic Neuwiller, Griesbach, beginning at approx 1900. Route to be posted by Div MPs. Bn started move at [illegible] in order C, Hq, B, D, A-19, Bn Maint.

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Fr: 0001, 31 Dec 1944
To: 2400, 31 Dec 1944

Bn completed move from Wittershoffen to Neuwiller - Griesbach, closed at 0340. Bn CP established in house in center of Neuwiller. [illegible] C Companies billited in Griesbach, Bn Hq, Hq Co, D, A-19 billited in Neuwiller. Local security established, guards placed on all roads entering [illegible] all persons entering checked for proper identification.

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S-1 Annex to Unit Journal

Period 1-31 December 1944

1\. a KIA
Officers: None
EM : Two (2)

b MIA
Officers: None
EM : None

c WIA
Officers: Two (2)
EM : Nine (9)

d NBC
Officers: Two (2)
EM : Twelve (12)

2\. Prisoners of War : Fourteen (14)

3\. Roster of Key Personnel
Commanding Officer : Lt. Col. E. C. Watson
Executive Officer : Major Howard K. Phillips
Operations Officer S-3 : Major William E Shedd III
Intelligence Officer S-2 : Capt Greenville T. Emmet Jr.
S-3 Air, Comm. Off.: Capt Perry F Patton (1st Lt Willard V. Horne, Act'g)
S-1, Adjutant : 1st Lt. Gordon W. O'Donnell
Supply Officer S-4: Capt Neal K. Swift (1st Lt Morris Max, Act'g)
Liaison Officer : 1st Lt Willard V Horne (1st Lt W.C. Hampton, Act'g
Bn Surgeon : Capt Lloyd I. Sexton
C.O. Headquarters Co.: Capt Roy S. Printup
C.O. Company A : Capt J.J. Scanlon
C.O. Company B : 1st Lt Homer L. Sanger
C.O. Company C : Capt Andrew M. Windarczyk
C.O. Company D : Capt William H. Smith
C.O. Service Co. : Capt Arnold H. Green

4\. Promotions
a Officers:
To Lt. Col. : Major E. C. Watson
To Captain : 1st Lt Lloyd I. Sexton
To 1st Lt. : 2nd Lt Arthur P. Hyde
To 2nd Lt. : S/Sgt William A. Close ( Battlefield Appointment)

b EM
To Staff Sgt: Sgt Warren F. Robertson 33443609
Sgt Edward H. Thomas 35675 197

5\. Awards and Decorations
See Unit Journal dated 29 Dec 1944.

Fr: 0001, 1 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 1 Jan 1945

At 0400, A-19 detached from 25 and ordered to vicinity Bitche with 19 AIB to reinforce Task Force Huddleson, receiving heavy pressure from enemy from North. A-19 left on mission at 0630.

Bn placed on one hour alert at 0900.

At 1000 orders received from CCB to send D Company to Zinswiller to replace A Company with 19 AIB, A Company having difficulty operating due to ice on roads. D Company pulled out to proceed on mission at 1230.

At 1115 order received from CCB to replace D Company with Medium Tank Company. B Company departed at 1230 to proceed to Zinswiller. A Company remained attached to 19 AIB. B Company arrived in Zinswiller at 1645 and placed two platoons on West edge of town and one platoon on East edge of Bischoltz and one platoon on NW edge.

D Company reverted to 25 control, went into Battalion Reserve in Uhrwiller, closed at 1800.

Weather remained cold and clear. Slight snows previous days caused all roads to be slick.

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Fr: 0001, 2 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 2 Jan 1945.

Battalion CP remains in Uhrwiller.

D-25 moved to Ingwiller at 1100 with mission of protecting mountain passes from North.

Operations for the period: B Co protecting pass thru Mts at Zinswiller
C Co " " " " " Rothbach
D Co " " " " " Ingwiller

The three companies defending mountain passes kept close contact with forward elements and elements to both flanks.

Bn CO, S-2, S-3 kept in close contact with companies defending passes.

Companies set up outposts forward in mountain passes, mission being to notify tanks blocking passes of any enemy vehicles or troops moving South.

At 1100 C Company platoon with CCB reverted to C Company control.

Mission of 25 remains to block passes through mountains, ZINSWILLER - ROTHBACH - INGWILLER.

A Company attached to 313 Inf Regt of 79th Division vicinity of Reipertswiller.

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Fr: 0001, 3 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 3 Jan 1945

Bn continues on mission; blocking mountain passes from North vicinity ZINSWILLER - ROTHBACH - INGWILLER.

Two peeps knocked out and burned just South of Reipertswiller in morning from enemy tank fire. One peep from A Company, one from Bn S-4.

A Company attached to 191 Tank Bn, part of 45th Infantry Division.

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15528

S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 4 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 4 Jan 1945

No change in mission. B, C, D Cos spread to East and West to increase field of fire and effectiveness of block.

B-62 attached to 25 and platoon attachments to Cos made as follows:

3 Platoon to C Co
1 Platoon to B Co
2 Platoon to D Co

Purpose of attachments being to support companies defending passes and roads through mountains.

B-62 CP established in Uhrwiller.

Following report received from Major Hollis, 191 Tank Bn: "In counterattack the enemy made on Saegmuhl this afternoon A-25 captured 118 prisoners, including a battalion commander. A-25 doing excellent job."

Weather remains cold with intermittent light snow flurries.

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Fr: 0001, 5 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 5 Jan 1945

No change in mission of Battalion.

Five Gap Plan put into effect to cover passes from North:

Gap #1, ZINSWILLER PASS - Lt Swager in charge.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gap Line | 1 Sect Med | B Co | S/Sgt Thomas |
| Secondary Line | 1 Plat Med | B Co | Lt Hyde |
| Break thru | 1 Sect Lts | D Co | Lt Klinefelter |
| | Plus one platoon B-62 | | |

Gaps 2 & 3, ROTHBACH PASS - Capt Winiarczyk in charge.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gap Line 2 | 1 Sect Med | C Co | Lt Gisse |
| Gap Line 3 | 1 Sect Med | C Co | S/Sgt Knight |
| Secondary Line | 1 Plat Med | C Co | Lt Chrisman |
| Break thru | AG Plat | Hq Co | Lt Martin |
| | All AT Guns 62 | | |
| | AG Plat 62 | | |
| | Plus one platoon B-62 | | |

Gaps 4 & 5, INGWILLER PASS - Capt Smith in charge.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gap Line 4 | 1 Sect Lts | D Co | Lt Williams |
| Gap Line 5 | 1 Sect Med | B Co | Lt Close |
| Secondary Line 4 | 1 Sect Med | C Co | Lt Derr-Sgt Neff |
| Secondary Line 5 | 1 Sect Med | C Co | Lt Derr-Sgt Neff |
| Break thru | 1 Sect Lts | D Co | S/Sgt McClarren |
| | Plus one platoon B-62 | | |

Reserve - 1 platoon B-25 (Lt Geneser), 1 platoon D-25 (Lt Fraser).

One PW captured by B-25 outpost at 1030, North of Zinswiller.

Patrols from Platoon B-62 operating with B-25 reported enemy patrols operating in woods approx one and one helf miles N of Zinswiller during darkness.

Platoons of B-62 operating with C and D Cos, also reported enemy patrols active in woods to North.

Relocation of tanks effecting Gap Line Plat completed by B and C Cos at 1700 and by D Co at 1830. Weather continued cold.

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S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 6 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 6 Jan 1945

Continued on mission of blocking mountain passes from North until relieved by A-94 at 1900. Companies relocated; tanks blocking passes drawn back, B Co in Zinswiller, C Co in Bischholtz, D Co in Ingwiller. Bn CP remains in Uhrwiller, attached platoons from B-62 remain with companies. 25 I&R Platoon attached to A-94 with mission of operating listening posts as designated by A-94.

New mission "Be prepared to re-establish present defenses, also be prepared to move in execution of other plans on short notice."

Lt [illegible], killed in Reipertswiller as his tank advanced to NW edge of town. Tank hit by bazooka. Gunner of tank also killed. Driver drove tank back into town with two wounded members.

A Company relieved by 45th Division at 1000. Moved back to Mulhausen during hours of darkness.

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Fr: 0001, 7 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 7 Jan 1945

Division Plan 6 put into effect. Mission of Plan 6: "Counter attack by 14th in event of Armored breakthrough by enemy from Wissembourg Gap Area. CCB remain in present area protecting gaps from mountains until released, then to East and North East attacking toward Wissembourg."

Rcn 25 remains attached to A-94 maintaining listening posts.

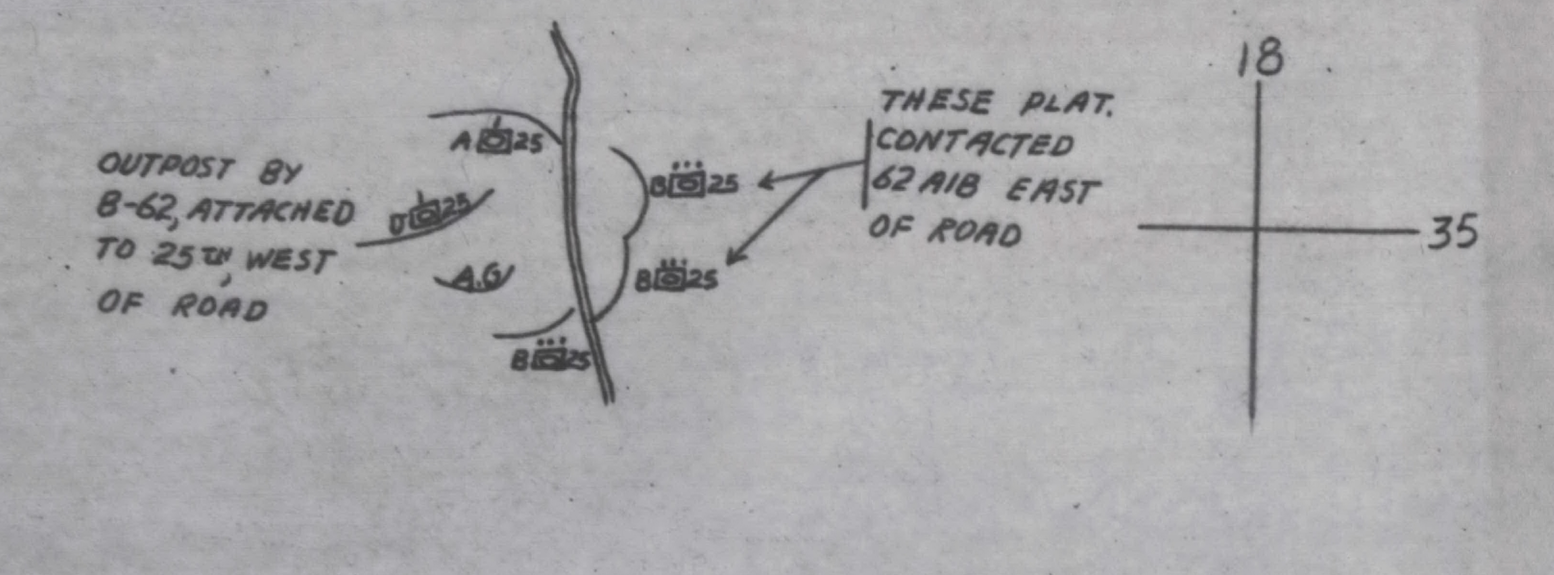
Weather continued cold, light snow flurries during day.

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Fr: 0001, 8 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 10 Jan 1945

No change. Continued to be prepared to defend mountain passes from North and alerted to move upon order, effecting Plan 6.

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14

33

121700 JAN. '45

OVERLAY
SELTZ, SHEET 1 & 2
SCALE 1:25,000

RESTRICTED

S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 11 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 11 Jan 1945

Bn CP in Uhrwiller.

At 0730 Bn placed on 30 minute alert. C Company attached to 62 AIB. I & R Platoon reverted to 25 control. 1-A-94 to 25 control, 1-B-125 to 25 control.

At 0845 orders received from CC B (Ln O) "Move to assembly area Woerth, from there be prepared to move to E or NE.

Bn moved out at 0945, closed in assembly area Woerth at 1405. Bn remained alerted to move on short notice. Bn CP established in center of town. At 2200 orders received to move to assembly area via Hohwiller, from there attack on road toward woods E of Hatten.

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Fr: 0001, 12 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 12 Jan 1945

Bn moved to assembly area and closed at 1115.

Orders received at 1115 to jump off at 1130 to attack to E cross country towards Hatten. Bn in column of Co's, Co's deployed with B Co, A Co, AG Plat, B-62 (-), D-Co.

Received heavy artillery fire commencing at 1215. Received AT fire from NW edge of Rittershoffen through most of attack. Attack ceased for night with forward elements pulled back to defensive position E of Rittershoffen - Leiterswiller Road. Special security established to prevent any enemy surprise attack. (See overlay).

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Fr: 0001, 13 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 13 Jan 1945

On orders from CC B, Bn moved back to former assembly area in Hohwiller.

At 0745, A & B Co's, AG Plat, employed indirect fire on Buhl, Stundwiller and Aschbach, firing 1270 rounds. At 1015, 10 rounds per tank were fired on same towns.

Mission of Bn, "Be prepared to attack to E on immediate order, be prepared to fire indirect and be watchful of left flank to North.

On order from CC B one platoon light tanks made reconnaissance of Selzbach River from 140 360 to 190 348. Mission accomplished until 1500 when ordered to return. Platoon contacted elements of C Co attached to 62 vicinity Leiterswiller - Rittershoffen Road. Received some artillery and direct fire. No vehicle or personnel casualties.

Platoon A-25 and Platoon B-62 moved up to Leiterswiller - Rittershoffen Road to outpost on right flank of 62 AIB for night. Weather clear and cold. Bn CP in Hohwiller. At 2200 1-A-94 relieved to parent unit.

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C COMPANY

Fr: 0001, 12 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 12 Jan 1945

Attached to 62 AIB. Closed in assembly area Mohwiller at 1000. Launched attack at 1130 in support of 62.

Lost one tank North of Rittershoffen near LD. (Leiterswiller - Rittershoffen Road).

Launched another attack at 1500 to Right. Knocked out AT gun in front of LD. Lost one tank.

Had withdrawn to ridge West of LD and deployed on MLR to back up Infantry. During entire attack received tremendous concentration of artillery and mortar fire.

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Fr: 0001, 13 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 13 Jan 1945

Received artillery fire during night.

Launched an enveloping attack to the left beyond LD at 0830. Advanced toward the East with platoon of 75's and Section 76's.

Engaged enemy tanks and knocked out three on ridge North of Hatten. Knocked out two AT guns and burned two enemy pill boxes on ridge near Stundwiller. Lost one tank. Had withdrawn and regrouped. Launched another attack at 1030 over ridge. Located enemy MG North of Rittershoffen near LD. Fired on it and lost one tank knocked out by AT fire.

Had withdrawn to initial position and regrouped. Received order from higher Hq to proceed East cutting two roads North of Hatten at maximum speed. Were to meet friendly tanks East of objective. Launched attack approx 1430 and proceeded to objective.

Had seen enemy on MO'd tank and opened fire on them killing three and taking two prisoners. Also killed enemy FO wrapped in white sheet.

When company had gotten in the open enemy opened up with AT cross fire knocking out one tank. Gave order for an immediate withdrawal and returned to previous positions.

Continued to received artillery and mortar fire during the entire time positions were occupied. Returned to parent unit 1600, 14 Jan 1945.

RESTRICTED

S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 14 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 14 Jan 1945

Mission of Bn remains, "Stay in present position, be prepared to fire indirect as ordered and be watchful of left flank.

At 0815, AG's, A & B Co's fired indirect on Stundwiller, Ashbach, Buhl. From 0815 until approx 1400 firing continued at rate of 10 rounds per tank per hour.

At 1600, B-62 reverted to 62 control, C-62 to 25 control. C-25 reverted to 25 control, A-25 to 62 control.

1-B-25 (Lt Close) to vic Leiterswiller - Rittershoffen road to support A-25 as mobile reserve (not attached to 62).

2-B-25 to position vic Leiterswiller to observe and fire on enemy vehicles operating between Rittershoffen - Hatten from NE and E.

Platoon D-25 moved to 153 342 to cut road to Rittershoffen and protect right flank of A-25. Moved into position at 2130. Bn CP in Hohwiller.

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Fr: 0001, 15 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 15 Jan 1945

Bn CP in Hohwiller. No change in mission. 1-B-25 (Lt Close) remains with A-25 (not attached). 2-B-25 (Lt Hyde) remains in position vicinity Leiterswiller. At 1600 Bn alerted for possible move to East to assist in repelling enemy counter attack from East. 1-B-25 reverted to parent unit at 1227.

AG's fired 3 rounds per gun, indirect, at 1600. Target, enemy troop concentration at 184 337. 3-D-25 ordered to vicinity 165 352 to employ enemy and report enemy disposition. Moved out on mission at 1415, returned at 1815. Reached objective, drew no fire, only enemy seen, three Germans running from position several hundred yards beyond objective. Weather remains cold and foggy all day. 1-B-125 reverted to 125 control.

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Fr: 0001, 16 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 16 Jan 1945

Bn CP in Hohwiller.

3-D-25 (Lt Klinefelter) made reconnaissance of area E from present position following general line Selzbach River. Mission: "Observing, employing enemy and reporting enemy disposition and to reach point 186 345. Left on mission at 0945. At 166 354 platoon drew heavy artillery and direct fire. Withdrew to defilade position and observed and adjusted artillery fire on enemy positions observed. 499 FA Bn fired heavy concentration on 170 348, 167 347, 173 343. Lt Klinefelter observed troops, one enemy tank, and AT guns at these coordinates. Unable to place direct fire on enemy positions due to visibility. Platoon ordered to return at 1700.

1-D-25 (Lt Hand) proceeded on same mission at 11[illegible]0. Reached point vic Leiterswiller and ordered to hold position. Returned to company at 1530.

AG fired intermittently during day on 173 343. Observation reported artillery and AG fire on targets.

2-D-25 (Lt Fraser) at 153 342 relieved and replaced by 1-D-25.

Two men from 3-D-25 wounded by enemy artillery fire.

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S-3 JOURNAL, 25th TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 17 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 17 Jan 1945

Bn CP in Hohwiller.

3-D-25 left Bn area Hohwiller at 0715, mission, feint attack to East, general line Selzbach River, fire observe enemy disposition, report findings. Reached point 168 351 at 1140. From position this vic Lt Klinefelter was able to observe and adjust artillery fire on enemy vehicles and troops. Observation included enemy Inf at 172 349, three enemy tanks at orchard vic 170 347. One enemy tank at 1410 vic 170 347. At 1320 section medium tanks (Lt Close) joined 3-D-25, to fire on enemy vehicles observed.

At 1450 enemy placed smoke behind our light tanks.

At 1620 Lt Close section hit German tank vic orchard 170 349. Set fire to tank.

Both section medium and platoon light tanks fired on enemy vehicles and Inf along ridge in rear of orchard vic 170 347. Received some artillery fire and small arms fire intermittently during day.

2-B-25 fired on positions intermittently during day, unable to place effective fire due to visibility. Visibility increased med afternoon, moved tanks forward to better position and was able to fire effectively.

AG's fired on 170 349 at 1010; 170 349 at 1035; 172 349 at 1130; 169348 at 1455.

2-B-25 relieved & replaced 3-B-25 at 1730.

3-D-25, 1-B-25, 1-D-25 returned to Bn area at 1740.

At 2155 orders received to return platoon light tanks to vic 153 342 to block road at that point and return at 0730. 2-D-25 left on mission at 2230.

2200 orders from CC B to send platoon light tanks following day on mission, fire and observe vic Leiterswiller to East.

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Fr: 0001, 18 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 18 Jan 1945

Bn CP in Hohwiller.

1-D-25 moved out at 0720, mission feint attack generally along Selzbach River to East, fire and observe enemy disposition. Reached point vicinity 164 354. Remained in this position until forced to withdraw to vic 157 357 due to artillery and direct fire. Received artillery fire intermittently during day.

1-B-25 with 1-D-25 on mission to fire on targets available.

Observation for day included: 3 enemy tanks and truck at 175 346; enemy vehicles at 186 344, enemy Inf on knoll at 174 346, enemy tank on ridge 185 339; Inf at 168347.

AG Platoon 25 fired missions on 169 348 at 0945, observed.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| " | 167 346 | 0955 | " |
| " | 174 346 | 1057 | " |
| " | 174 346 | 1120 | " |
| " | 163 344 | 1550, | Unobserved |
| " | 186 344 | 1610 | " |
| " | 169 342 | 1730 | " |

3-B-25 to position just South of Oberroedern to observe and fire during day. Visibility poor part of day. Fired during day on targets of opportunity. Knocked out one enemy tank vic 179 344, tank burning.

A Company knocked out one enemy tank and half track vic 171 348, both burning.

A Company at time in defensive position on ridge W of Leiterswiller - Rittershoffen road. Was able to observe fire on targets of opportunity to E vic Hatten - Rittershoffen.

18 January 1945 (contd)

3-D-25 to 154 342 for protection right flank C Co, block road from Rittershoffen.

At 1715, 1-D-25, 1-B-25 orderedto return to parent unit.

3-B-25 returned to Leiterswiller 1700. 2-D-25 to Hoelschbach for security 14 AD CP, closed 1410. C-25 relieved A-25 late in afternoon.

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Fr: 0001, 19 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 19 Jan 1945

Bn CP in Hohwiller. At 0730 1-D-25 and 2-B-25 left on mission, "Feint attack E along line Selsbach River, fire, observe enemy disposition". Reached point 163 353. At 1126 withdrew to position vic 155 358. Received some direct fire in morning, heavy artillery fire in afternoon.

3-B-25 to position just S of Oberroedern to fire and observe on enemy targets available. Knocked out three enemy halftracks at 1020 vic 169 349. Fired effectively on doughs N of Rittershoffen. Located AT gun at 161 34?, two enemy tanks at 180 341.

Assault guns fired missions on 180 341, (unobserved), and on 180 371 (observed).

At 1315, C-25 reverted to 25 control and 1st and 2nd Platoons, B-25, attached to 62 AIB.

C-25 and C-62 placed on one hour alert at 1330; mission, to assist CC A upon call.

AG's replaced 3-B-25 in Leiterswiller at 1700.

3-D-25 to 154 342 at 1700, to block road leading out of Rittershoffen and protect right flank of tanks on ridge west of Leiterswiller-Rittershoffen road.

At 1730 orders received for possible movement to South. C-25 reverted to 62 control, 1st & 2d Platoons, B-25, reverted to 25 control. Alert for C-25 and C-62 called off.

3-D-25, AG's, 1-2-B-25, 1-D-25 returned to parent unit in Hohwiller.

C Company with 62 AIB knocked out AT gun at 1013, enemy tank and SP gun at 1145, both vicinity 164 346.

Three rounds of medium artillery fell in Hohwiller at 1440.

At 1800 orders received for movement of Bn to vicinity Hochfelden. Bn moved out of Hohwiller at 0800. 2-D-25 relieved by 14 AD and joined Bn at 090? at Surbourg.

Bn attached to VI Corps.

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Fr: 0001, 20 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 20 Jan 1945

Bn closed in Hohfelden at 0130, Bn CP established in house in E edge of town. Due to crowded condition, Bn Commander received permission from VI Corps to move to vicinity Littenheim-Altenheim-Lupstein. Moved from Hohfelden at 1400, closed at 1700 with Bn CP in Littenheim, A&B Co's in Altenheim, D Co in Detwiller, Ser Co and Bn Maint in Lupstein. Weather remained cold with light snow during early night.

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JOURNAL OF "C" COMPANY DURING DETACHMENT, 22-27 JANUARY 1945

Fr: 0001, 22 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 22 Jan 1945

Attached to 79th Infantry Division. Company CP in Weitbruch with all platoons in same town.

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Fr: 0001, 23 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 23 Jan 1945

2nd Platoon attached to 242 Inf at Kaltenhouse. 1st Platoon attached to 314th Inf at Marienthal, and 3rd Platoon attached to 314th Inf elements in Bischwiller. Supported Infantry in the defensive line along the Moder River.

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Fr: 0001, 24 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 24 Jan 1945

No change

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Fr: 0001, 25 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 25 Jan 1945

2nd Platoon rushed to the vicinity of Haguenau to repulse attack which had broken through the 242 Inf lines. Instrumental in capturing 75 PWs and accounting for about 100 casualties. Later in the morning, one of these tanks knocked out a German Mark IV tank across the Moder River. Defensive Line restored.

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Fr: 0001, 26 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 26 Jan 1945

Attachments remain same as of 23 Jan 1945.

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Fr: 0001, 27 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 27 Jan 1945

Returned to control of 25 Tank Battalion at 2230.

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S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 21 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 21 Jan 1945

Bn CP in Littenheim.
B Company relieved from VI Corps security mission in Dettwiller and joined parent unit in Littenheim.
C Company relieved from 62 AIB, moved back to parent unit in Littenheim.
At 1800, Bn relieved from VI Corps and reverted to CC B control.
C-62 reverted to 62 control.

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Fr: 0001, 22 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 22 Jan 1945

Bn CP in Littenheim.
At 1400, B-25 attached to 68 AIB, A-68 attached to 25. C-25 released from 25 and attached to 79th Inf Div. Moved to Weitbruch.
At 1400, one platoon light tanks attached to Div Hq for CP security.
At 1430, one section tanks, A-25, attached to CC B as security. Weather clear and cold.

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Fr: 0001, 23 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 23 Jan 1945

Bn CP in Huttendorf. At 1100 Bn placed on one hour alert for possible move. At 1215, orders from CC B that Bn would move in afternoon. One company to be on one half hour alert. Orders to follow through Liaison Officer.
At 1315, Ln O arrived with orders to move to vic Mommenheim as part of CC B. Bn moved out at 1515 and closed in Huttendorf at 2115. Road blocks established on all roads entering town. Weather remains cold with light snow flurries during day.
3-B-125 attached to 25 at 2115.

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Fr: 0001, 24 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 24 Jan 1945

Bn CP in Huttendorf. Bn in assembly area on one hour alert with A-25 on one half hour alert. Mission being to move NE or N toward vic Sweighausen to assist in repelling any enemy threat in that area. Bn as part of CC B to be under 79 Div control upon movement.
Road blocks maintained on all roads entering town.
Maintenance of vehicles and weapons stressed. Remaining time devoted to rehabilitation, and cleaning of personal equipment.
Weather cold and cloudy.

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Fr: 0001, 25 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 25 Jan 1945

Bn as part of CC B to 79 Div control at 0730 with orders to move generally NE, seize town of Schweighausen and cut roads leading into town. Bn moved from Huttendorf at 0930, closed in attack position vic Wintershouse at 1140. Remained in position awaiting further orders.

25 January 1945 (contd)

Platoon medium tanks and squad of infantry and FO tank ordered to vic 990 243 (1/50,000, Haguenau Sheet), mission to observe, fire on targets available. Platoon (S/Sgt Backus) moved out at 1300, went in to position S of road entering Schweighausen. From this position moved across road and through woods to N to road leading out of Schweighausen to NW. Saw many German doughs, fired on them. Enemy doughs retreating rapidly to North before tanks could get in effective range. Platoon returned to parent unit at 2000. Captured one German prisoner.

One platoon medium tanks and squad of infantry ordered to Uhlwiller to set up with mission of assisting in repelling any counterattack from NE. To contact CO 3d Bn, 232 Inf Regt. One platoon medium tanks ordered to road junction 968 333, contact CO 3d Bn, 232 Inf Regt. Both platoons moved out at 2145 and reached destination at approximately 2245.

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Fr: 0001, 26 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 26 Jan 1945

Bn CP in Huttendorf with advance CP in Winterhouse. Platoon medium tanks with squad of infantry at Uhlwiller released to parent unit at 1000. This platoon not committed.

Platoon medium tanks attached to 3d Bn, 232 Inf Regt, released to parent unit at 1000. Platoon supported infantry battalion during attack through woods to N from Ohlungen. Resistance during attack very light and tanks not committed.

Bn ordered out of attack position to Huttendorf closed at 1600.

Weather remains cold, cloudy with intermittent snows during day.

Fr: 0001, 27 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 27 Jan 1945

Battalion CP in Huttendorf. Roadblocks maintained on all roads entering town.

C-25 relieved from 79th Inf Div and reverted to 25 control. Moved to town of Minversheim, closed at 2220. Weather cloudy with heavy snow entire day. Roads very slick.

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Fr: 0001, 28 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 28 Jan 1945

Battalion CP in Huttendorf. Available time spent on maintanance of vehicles of weapons. All officers given instruction on proper destruction of Ordnance Material. Officers continued instruction to all enlisted men.

Outposted town with roadblocks on all roads entering town. Weather cloudy, cold with heavy snow in morning and light snow in afternoon.

---

Fr: 0001, 29 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 29 Jan 1945

Battalion CP in Huttendorf. Roadblocks maintained on all roads entering town. Maintenance welded lugs on all tank tracks. One tank tested and it was found that the lugs helped considerably in maneuvering on slick roads.

Plans being made for forthcoming operations to restore MLR from Bischwiller-Drusenheim-Rhine River by 36th Inf Division with CC B as attachment. Weather clear and cold.

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Fr: 0001, 30 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 30 Jan 1945

Battalion CP in Huttendorf. Roadblocks maintained on all roads entering town. Planning orders for forthcoming operation received from CC B. At 0900 all officers to Bn CP for briefing and discussion of plans.

Bn S-2 and Rcn Platoon made reconnaissance of road and terrain vicinity Bischwiller. Weather cold and cloudy with light snow during afternoon.

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Fr: 0001, 31 Jan 1945
To: 2400, 31 Jan 1945

Battalion CP in Huttendorf. Roadblocks maintained on all roads entering town.

Orientation film "Germany" shown to all troops. Started 0845, finished 1415.

Continued planning and map study covering coming operations. Bn as part of CC B to operate under 36th Div during attack to restore MLR Bischwiller-Drusenheim-Rhine River. Mission of Bn, "Move to vicinity Bischwiller, be prepared to repel counter-attack direction:

Oberhoffen - Woods
Oberhoffen - Drusenheim
Oberhoffen - Rohrwiller

Bn alerted to be prepared to execute move to attack position vic Bischwiller after 1000, 1 February 1945. Weather cloudy and warmer.

S-1 Annex to Unit Journal

Period 1-31 January 1945

1. a. KIA
   Officers: Two (2)
   EM : Three (3)
   b. MIA
   Officers: None
   EM : None
   c. WIA
   Officers: One (1)
   EM : Seventeen (17)
   d. NBC
   Officers: None
   EM : Twenty-eight (28)

2. Prisoners of War: None

3. Roster of Key Personnel
   Commanding Officer: Lt Col E. C. Watson
   Executive Officer: Major H. E. Philips
   Operations Officer: Major W. E. Shedd, III
   Intelligence Officer: Capt G. T. Emmet, Jr
   S-3 Air, Comm Officer: Capt P. F. Patton (1st Lt Willard V. Horne) Act'g)
   Adjutant: 1st Lt G. W. O'Donnell
   Supply Officer: Capt N. K. Swift (1st Lt Morris Wax) Act'g)
   Liaison Officer: 1st Lt W. V. Horne (1st Lt William C. Hampton) Act'g)
   Bn Surgeon: Capt L. I. Sexton
   CO Hq Co: Capt R. S. Printup
   CO Co A: Capt J. J. Scanlan
   CO Co B: Capt Homer L. Swager
   CO Co C: Capt A. W. Winiarczyk
   CO Co D: Capt W. H. Smith
   CO Ser Co: Capt A. H. Green

4. Promotions
   a. Officers:
   To Capt: 1st Lt H. L. Swager
   To 1st Lt: 2nd Lt E. Q. Wood
   2nd Lt R. S. Walton
   2nd Lt F. H. Gisse
   2nd Lt R. S. Chrisman
   2nd Lt D. G. Longley
   b. EM:
   To S/Sgt: Pfc Vincent A. Corio

5. Awards and Decorations
   a. Bronze Star Medal
   2nd Lt F. H. Gisse
   Sgt Norman E. Hargraves

HEADQUARTERS
25TH. TANK BATTALION
APO 446 U.S.ARMY

A/1

6 March 1945

SUBJECT: ~~Unit Historical Report.~~

TO : Commanding General, 14th. Armored Division, APO 446, U. S. Army.
(Through; Headquarters, CC "B")

1. Attached is Unit Historical Report of this unit covering period, 1 - 28 February 1945.

For the Battalion Commander:

Howard E. Philips
HOWARD E. PHILIPS
Major, 25th. Tank Battalion
Actg. S-3

S-3 JOURNAL

25TH TANK BATTALION

Fr: 0001, 1 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 1 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Huttendorf. At 1000 Battalion alerted for move to vic Bischwiller on short notice. At 1630 Battalion ordered to execute move to Bischwiller. Moved out at 1715 and closed in NW edge of Bischwiller at 1900. Special Security established. On orders from CCB plans made to have two combat patrols available upon call. Combat patrols to consist of platoon medium tanks, squad of infantry and forward observer. Weather cloudy, warmer with intermittent showers during day. Bn forward CP established in Bischwiller and rear CP remained in Huttendorf.

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Fr: 0001, 2 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 2 Feb 1945

Bn forward CP in Bischwiller.

At 0845 1-C-25 and 2-C-25 to E edge of Bischwiller, remained in firing position during day to furnish protective fire and cover to N, NE and E.

At 1000 A-25 attached to 68 AIB.

B-25 with 68 AIB. Mission, flank town of Oberhoffen from East and secure RR to NW of town. A-25 (-) as support. One platoon A-25 plus squad of infantry and FO as flank protection. Reached point 103 200 (France 1/50,000, Brumath Sheet) and held up due to stream not being fordable. Advance elements by-passed stream going west through edge of town. Drew direct fire from woods to North. Tanks drew considerable artillery fire during advance. After dark tanks drew back to assembly area in Southern edge of town. Attack halted at 1930.

Fired on enemy tanks in woods North of town where it was thought direct fire was coming from and on enemy infantry in cellars in Oberhoffen. Terrain marshy and soft.

At 1930 A-68 reverted to 68 control. A-25 with 68, relieved company from 753d Tank Battalion in Oberhoffen. Weather clear and warm.

---

Fr: 0001, 3 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 3 Feb 1945

Battalion forward CP in Bischwiller. A-B Companies remain attached to 68 AIB in Oberhoffen. 1-C-25 and 2-C-25 in position in E edge of Bischwiller covering area to N, NE and E. At 1000 Mortar Platoon was attached to 68 AIB for tactical purposes only. Fired several missions during night on NW edge of Oberhoffen. AGs fired several missions on 114 215 and 097 211 (France, 1/50,000, Brumath Sheet).

At approximately 2000 five rounds of medium artillery fell in immediate vic of Battalion CP.

Weather, rain, continued warm with limited visibility. Tanks unable to operate effectively except on roads.

---

Fr: 0001, 4 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 4 Feb 1945

Bn forward CP in Bischwiller.

1-2-C-25 took up positions on E edge Bischwiller covering area to N, NE and E. A&B 25 remain attached to 68 AIB. AGs fired intermittently on edge of woods N & NE of Oberhoffen. Ren Platoon made route Rcn of roads Bischwiller-Kurtzenhorf-[illegible]shein-[illegible]ries.

3-B-125 to vic N & NW Rohrwiller to make frost test. Reported ground soft and under water. Not suitable for tank operation

Fr: 0001, 4, Feb 1945
To: 2400, 4 Feb 1945
(continued)

At 1730 Battalion alerted for move to assembly area vic Gries. Billiting party left at 1800. Weather cloudy with light rains during day.

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Fr: 0001, 5 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 5 Feb 1945

Bn forward CP in Bischwiller until 1130. 25 (-) moved from Bischwiller to assembly area in Gries. Move made by platoons, 15 minute interval between platoons. Order of march D Co, C Co, AGs, 3-D-125, Mortar, Maintenance. Medics moved by infiltration starting at 1030. D Co moved out at 0945. Bn closed in Gries at 1145. Bn CP established in house in E edge of town.

A-25 relieved from 68, reverted to 25 control. Closed in Gries at 1630.

Rcn Platoon Ldr and section made route Rcn Gries-Kurtzenhausen- Weyersheim-Hoerdt-Gambsheim.

2-C-25 ordered to B-117 Cav at 1915. Moved out to join B-117 at 1945. Mission, move into town of Offendorf.

3-C-25 alerted for similar mission at 2145. 3-C-25 moved out at 2300 to support elements of 117 in moving into Gambsheim. Both platoons as support reached objectives. Both Offendorf and Gambsheim reported clear.

Weather cloudy with light showers during day.

---

Fr: 0001, 6 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 6 Feb 1945

At 1430 Battalion moved from Gries in order D Co, C Co (-), A Co, Hq Co, Medics and Maint. Closed in Weitbruch at 1630. Bn CP established in center of town.

2-C-25 and 3-C-25 supporting 117 Cav, 2-C in Offendorf, 3-C in Gambsheim. Both platoons released at 1930, joined parent unit in Weitbruch at 2130.

Weather, cloudy, continued warm.

---

Fr: 0001, 7 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 7 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Weitbruch.

At 1200 Ln Officer from CCB with orders covering move to vic Huttendorf. Move to be made 8 Feb 1945. Billiting party left Bn area at 1245. Cloudy during the day with intermittent showers. Roads becoming cut up and track vehicles are roadbound.

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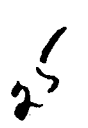
Fr: 0001, 8 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 8 Feb 1945

Bn moved from Weitbruch to Huttendorf - Morschwiller. Moved out from Weitbruch at 0730. Closed at 1100 with Bn CP in Huttendorf, Hq Co, D Co, A-68, AGs and Mortars in Huttendorf. A & B Cos in Morschwiller. Roadblocks established on all roads entering towns of Huttendorf and Morschwiller. At 0100 A-68 attached to 25.

Bn placed on 4 hour alert.

Weather cloudy in morning to clear in afternoon.





RE[illegible]

S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 9 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 9 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Huttendorf.
Entire day devoted to maintenance of weapons, cleaning whitewash from vehicles, re-stowing vehicles and maintenance of vehicles.
Plans being made to fire all reinforcements with their individual arms.
Outposted town of Huttendorf.
At 0930 Division Band visited battalion area for a twenty-minute concert.
Weather cloudy with light showers during day. Roads are in bad condition and traffic is being limited to absolute necessary trips. Engineers reinforcing all roads where breaks appear.

---

Fr: 0001, 10 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 10 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Huttendorf. Outposted towns of Huttendorf and Morshwiller. All personnel manning roadblocks alerted to be especially watchful for infiltration of enemy agents.
Training schedules put into effect by all companies and medical detachment. Following subjects were stressed:

Personal Sanitation
Supervised Maintenance
Orientation
Weapons Cleaning
Radio Procedure

Weather: Cloudy with light showers during day, continued warm.

---

Fr: 0001, 11 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 11 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Huttendorf. Outposted towns of Huttendorf and Morshwiller. Training by all companies during day covered:

Orientation
Use of Demolition
Personal Cleanliness
Maintenance: Vehicles and weapons
Security Measures
Radio Procedure

Movies were shown to all available men in afternoon and showers in Schwindratzheim available to battalion all afternoon. Trucks carried men to shower point. Bn CO, Lt Col E. C. Watson to Hospital. Major H. E. Phillips assumes command during his absence.
Weather: Clear in morning to cloudy and rain in afternoon. Roads continue to be hazardous due to continuous rains and traffic held to a minimum.

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RES[illegible]

S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 12 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 12 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Huttendorf. Outposted towns of Huttendorf and Morshwiller.

All reinforcements received to date firedtheir individual weapons on Saverne Range between 0800 and 1030. Each man fired thirty rounds. Purpose of firing: To familiarize each man with his individual weapon and make necessary sight adjustments.

Training during day covered:

Maintenance, vehicles and weapons
Orientation
Direct and Indirect fire.
Radio Procedure

Showers were available to battalion until 1330.

Weather: Cloudy and warm, light rains.

---

Fr: 0001, 13 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 13 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Huttendorf. Outposted towns of Huttendorf and Morschwiller.

Training during day covered:

Maintenance, vehicles and weapons
Orientation
Indirect fire
Personal Cleanliness
Security

Movies shown to battalion at 1300 and 1500.

Bn alertedfor move to Alteckendorf. Move to be executed 14 February 1945. A and C Companies to remain in present position.

Weather: Cloudy and continued warm.

---

Fr: 0001, 14 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 14 Feb 1945

Battalion (-A & C) moved from Huttendorf to Alteckendorf. Route Huttendorf-Morschwiller-Ringeldorf-[illegible]tendorf-Alteckendorf. Order of march: A-68, D-25, Hq and Hq Co, Medics, Bn Maint. Moved out at 0900 and closed in Alteckendorf at 1015. Bn CP established in school house in center of town.

Outposts established in all roads entering town. A and C Companies continue to maintain road blocks in Morschwiller.

Weather: Clear and warm with unlimited visibility.

---

Fr: 0001, 15 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 15 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. A and C Companies remain in Morschwiller. Outposted both towns.

Training during day included:

Maintenance, vehicles and weapons
Orientation
Basic Infantry Training



Bn Commander, Bn S-3, and Tank Company Commanders attended Multi-Barrelled Rocket Projector demonstration vic St Jean at 1400.

Weather: Clear and continued warm. Road condition improving with continued clear weather.

Fr: 0001, 16 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 16 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Outposted towns of Morschwiller and Alteckendorf. Training conducted by all companies during day and featured:

Maintenance, vehicles and weapons
Orientation
Use of Cover and Concealment
Direct and Indirect Fire
Rocket Launcher Instruction and Firing

Movie "Going My Way" shown to battalion in afternoon and at night.

Bazooka teams from each company fired at 1530 in rear of Bn CP. Purpose of firing: Test different lots of ammunition and further familiarize crews with firing weapon.

Weather: Cloudy in morning with heavy fog to clear in afternoon.

---

Fr: 0001, 17 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 17 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Outposted towns of Morschwiller and Alteckendorf.

ETOUSA Representative gave lecture on "Escape, What to do if Captured, How to Escape if Captured", at 1300 to battalion.

Four men from Bn (1 from A-68) attended school on "Handling Friendly Mines" conducted by 125 Engineers at Schweinheim at 0900. These men to instruct their companies on subject. Attendance: Sgt Robertson, A Co; Sgt Shelton, C Co; Sgt McLarren, D Co; Sgt Dahl, A-68.

Normal training during day included:

Maintenance, vehicles and weapons
Orientation
Use of Cover and Concealment

Weather: Cloudy, slightly cooler with fog entire day.

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Fr: 0001, 18 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 18 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Outposted towns of Morschwiller and Alteckendorf. Normal training during day including:

Maintenance, vehicles and weapons
Orientation
Handling Friendly Mines
Basic Infantry Principles

Plans being made for relieving B Co with 68 AIB, replacing them with C Co, and releasing A-68 to parent unit.

---

Fr: 0001, 19 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 19 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Outposted towns of Morschwiller and Alteckendorf. A-68 released to parent unit at 1730. B-25 relieved from 68 AIB, reverted to parent unit and closed in Morschwiller at 1845.

Two platoons C-25 (1st & 3rd) attached to 68 AIB; 2-C-25 attached to 19 AIB. Time 1[illegible]00.

Lt Col E. C. Watson returned to duty.

Weather: Cloudy in morning changing to fair in afternoon and night.

---

Fr: 0001, 20 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 20 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Outposted towns of Morschwiller and Alteckendorf. Normal training during day stressing maintenance of vehicles and weapons.

Assault Guns fired approximately 60 rounds registering on check points.

Weather: Fair in morning to cloudy and rain in late aafternoon and night.

---

Fr: 0001, 21 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 21 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Outposted towns of Morschwiller and Alteckendorf.

Three tanks, B Co, fired approximately ten rounds on enemy positions at 1100 and at 1530 from positions vic Morschwiller. Drew counter battery fire both times.

AG's moved to new positions nearer front line, vic Pfaffenhoffen.

Normal training conducted during day.

Weather: Partly cloudy in morning to clear in afternoon and night.

---

Fr: 0001, 22 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 22 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Outposted towns of Morschwiller and Alteckendorf.

Three AG's in position South of Pfaffenhoffen vic 916263. Remaining three AG's moved to positions vic RR tracks just East of Alteckendorf.

Plans being made to effect counterattack measures upon order.

Normal training during day.

Weather: Clear entire day, minimum temperature, 38 degrees.

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Fr: [illegible], 23 [illegible]
To: [illegible]

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Outposted towns of Morschwiller and Alteckendorf. Normal training during day. AGs remained in firing position. Battalion prepared to support CCs in event of enemy breakthru in CCB zone. Mortar Platoon moved to Pfaffenhoffen and took up firing positions ready to fire on order. Weather: Clear.

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Fr: 0001, 24 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 24 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Outposted towns of Morschwiller and Alteckendorf. Normal training conducted during day. All vehicles and vehicular equipment inspected by team composed of battalion staff Officers. Three AGs in position south of Pfaffenhoffen relieved by platoon medium tanks from A-25, relief effected at 10[illegible]. AGs returned to Alteckendorf and went into firing position with remaining three guns. Bn remains prepared to support CCB in event enemy counterattacks in CCB zone. Weather: Overcast skies entire day, slightly cooler. Minimum temperature 34 degrees.

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Fr: 0001, 25 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 25 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Outposted towns of Morschwiller and Alteckendorf. Normal training conducted during day. Bn remains prepared to support CCB in event enemy counterattacks in CCB zone. Recon Platoon took over observation post on high ground south of Pfaffenhoffen; to man post during daylight hours. Weather: Overcast skies, continued cool, minimum temperature 30 degrees.

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Fr: 0001, 26 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 26 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Outposted towns of Morschwiller and Alteckendorf. Bn remains prepared to support CCB in zone in event of enemy breakthrough. AGs fired three missions on enemy positions north of [illegible]willer. (Observed). Mortar Platoon remains in Pfaffenhoffen prepared to fire on call. Platoon medium tanks from A-25 remain in position south of Pfaffenhoffen. Recon Platoon manning observation post on high ground south of Pfaffenhoffen. Weather: Cloudy in morning to clear in mid afternoon. Camouflage painting of all vehicles in Bn.

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Fr: 0001, 27 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 27 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Outposted towns of Morschwiller and Alteckendorf. Bn prepared to support CCB in event of enemy breakthrough. At 1500 twelve officers from battalion attended multi-barrelled Rocket Demonstration at [illegible]. A & C Cos each turned in one medium tank with 75mm gun. AGs fired TOT mission with Div Arty at 185[illegible]. Target: Bitchoffen. Fired 30 rounds (15 [illegible], 15 [illegible]). Observed. Mortars remain in position in Pfaffenhoffen. Weather: Cloudy in morning to clear in mid afternoon. Recon Platoon manning OP on high ground south of Pfaffenhoffen. Camouflage painting of all vehicles in Bn.

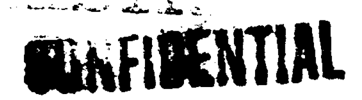
CONFIDENTIAL

S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 28 Feb 1945
To: 2400, 28 Feb 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Outposted towns of Morschwiller and Alteckendorf. Prepared to support CCB in Zone in event of enemy penetration. Mortar and Rcn Platoons remain in positions vic Pfaffenhoffen. Weather: Clear, warmer, minimum temperature 38 degrees. Camouflage painting of all vehicles in Bn. 62 AIB relieved 68 AIB & 2 platoons C-25 went to 62 AIB control.

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RESTR.

S-1 Annex to Unit Journal

Period 1-28 February 1945

1. a. KIA
   Officers: None
   EM : Two (2)
   b. MIA
   Officers: None
   EM : None
   c. WIA
   Officers: None
   EM : Six (6)
   d. NBC
   Officers: None
   EM : Seven (7)

2. Prisoners of War: None

3. Roster of Key Personnel
   Commanding Officer: Lt Col E. C. Watson
   Executive Officer: Major H. E. Philips
   Operations Officer: Major W. E. Shedd, III
   Intelligence Officer: Capt G. T. Emmet, Jr, (SD Hq 14th AD,
   1st Lt G. W. O' Donnell, actg)
   S-3 Air Communications Officer: Capt P. F. Patton ( trfd 13 Feb 45
   48th Tank Battalion)
   1st Lt W. V. Horne
   Adjutant (S-1) : 1st Lt G. W. O' Donnell
   Supply Officer (S-4) : Capt N. K. Swift (1st Lt Morris Wax) Act'g)
   Liaison Officer: 1st Lt W. C. Hampton
   Battalion Surgeon: Capt L. I. Sexton
   CO Hq Co: Capt R. S. Printup
   CO Co A: 1st Lt J. R. Martin
   CO Co B: Capt Homer L. Swager
   CO Co C: Capt A. W. Winiarczyk
   CO Co D: Capt W. H. Smith
   CO Ser Co: Capt A. H. Green

4. Promotions
   a. Officers:
   To 1st Lt : 2nd Lt P. M. Klinefelter
   2nd Lt T. M. Morris
   2nd Lt J. D. Fraser
   2nd Lt R. M. Grandin
   Aptd 2nd Lt : 1st/ Sgt F. L. Reissner
   b. EM: None

5. Decorations and Awards:
   a. Silver Star(Posthumous)
   1st Lt H. J. Solari
   Sgt W. H. O' Brien
   b. Bronz Star
   Pvt G. Hermandez
   Cpl V. Marriott
   Sgt G. Whitaker
   T/4 J. L. Stamp
   T/4 J. M. Bruce
   1st/Sgt L. Philosophos

Sgt G. Hawkins
S/Sgt J. Stallings
1st Lt E O. Wood
S/Sgt A. L. Hellar
T/5 L. Bently
T/4 J. C. Burk
T/5 H. Hamm
T/4 C. Hamilton
T/Sgt C. Olesinski
T/5 C. Schwabauer
Sgt W. O' Brien (Posthumous )
1st Lt W. Derr (Posthumous )
S/Sgt J. Knight (Posthumous )
Pvt E. Nila (Posthumous )

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS, 25TH. TANK BATTALION
APO 446
U.S.ARMY

12 April 1945

SUBJECT: Unit Historical Report.

TO : Commanding General, 14th. Armored Division, APO 446, U. S. Army.
(Through CC "R")

1. Attached is Unit Historical Report of this unit covering period 1 - 31 March 1945.

For the Commanding Officer:

William E. Shedd III
WILLIAM E. SHEDD III
Major, 25th. Tk. Battalion
S-3

RESTRICTED

Mar 45

Fr: 0001, 1 March 1945
To: 2400, 1 March 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Outposted and occupied towns of Alteckendorf and Merschwiller. Assault Guns and Mortars remained in firing positions and Rcn Platoon continued manning observation post on high ground South of Pfaffenhoffen. Battalion prepared to support CCB troops in zone. Weather: Cloudy in morning to clear in afternoon. Minimum temperature thirty-six degrees F.

---

Fr: 0001, 2 March 1945
To: 2400, 2 March 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Outposted and occupied towns of Merschwiller and Alteckendorf. Prepared to support CCB troops in zone. Tanks from B-25 fired 150 rounds on edge of woods East of Bitschhoffen at 1300-1500. Tanks from A-25 fired 50 rounds on edge of woods East of Bitschhoffen at 2000. B Company fired from position just North of Merschwiller, A Company from positions on high ground South of Pfaffenhoffen. Rcn Platoon continued manning observation post, Mortar Platoon and Assault Guns remained in firing positions. Weather: Partly cloudy in morning and cloudy with light snow in afternoon.

---

Fr: 0001, 3 March 1945
To: 2400, 3 March 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Outposted and occupied towns of Merschwiller and Alteckendorf. Prepared to support CCB troops in zone. Tanks from A-25 fired direct on edge of woods East of Bitschhoffen at 1300 from position on high ground South of Pfaffenhoffen. Additional firing during day:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1705-1710 | A-25 | Fired on woods edge East of Bitschhoffen |
| 1710-1715 | AG's | " " " " " " " |
| 1745-1755 | A-25 | " " " " " " " |
| 1755-1800 | A-25 & AGs | " " " " " " " |

Above firing as part of CCB coordinated fire plan.
Completed camouflage painting of vehicles. Weather: Cloudy all day with light snows.

---

Fr: 0001, 4 March 1945
To: 2400, 4 March 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Continued outposting and occupied towns of Merschwiller and Alteckendorf. A Company tanks and AGs fired intermittently on edge of woods East of Bitschhoffen. Bn prepared to support troops in CCB zone. Assault Guns, Mortars, and Rcn Platoon remain in positions. Weather: Cloudy with light snow all day. Minimum temperature thirty degrees F.

---

RESTI D

S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 4 March 1945
To: 2400, 4 March 1945
Continued
Section A-25 released

Battalion released from CCB and attached to CCA at 0800.
from CCB CP security and attached to CCA as CP security.
Platoon B-25 replaced platoon A-25 located on high ground S of Pfaffenhoffen.

---

Fr: 0001, 5 March 1945
To: 2400, 5 March 1945

Bn CP in Altechendorf. Outposted and occupied towns of Altechendorf and
Mereschwiller. Prepared to support troops in CCA zone. Section B-25 replaced
Section A-25 as CCA CP security. Assault guns fired light harrassing fire on
reported enemy positions in edge of woods East of Bitschhoffen at 1825.
Weather: Cloudy all day, continued cool.

---

Fr: 0001, 6 March 1945
To: 2400, 6 March 1945

Bn CP in Altechendorf. Continued to occupy and outpost towns of Altechen-
dorf and Mereschwiller. Prepared to support troops in CCA zone. Assault guns
and Platoon B-25 fired mission on edge of woods E of Bitschhoffen at 1615. AGs
fired 6 rounds; Tks fired three rounds per gun. Tanks from B-25 drew counter-
battery, three rounds, landing very close. Estimated to be 75mm. Weather:
Cloudy, light showers during day, continued cool.

---

Fr: 0001, 7 March 1945
To: 2400, 7 March 1945

Bn CP in Altechendorf. Continued to occupy and outpost towns of Altechen-
dorf and Mereschwiller. Prepared to support troops in CCA Z. At 1540 AGs Ehmed
and platoon B-25 fired TOT on town of Mietesheim. Tanks fired 20 rounds, AGs
fired 18 rounds. (observed). Mortar Platoon with 62 AIB fired 20 rounds
observed fire on tip of woods East of Bitschhoffen at 1350. Weather: Cloudy
with rain in late afternoon, minimum temperature 35 degrees.

---

Fr: 0001, 8 March 1945
To: 2400, 8 March 1945

Bn CP in Altechendorf. Continued to occupy and outpost towns of Altechen-
dorf and Mereschwiller. Prepared to support troops in CCA Z. Tanks from A-25 and
AGs fired indirect on edge of woods East of Bitschhoffen at 1330. Tanks and AGs
fired two rounds per gun. Mortar Platoon with 62 firedtwo rounds per mortar at
1330 on edge of woods East of Bitschhoffen. Weather: Cloudy, light showers
during day, continued cool. Roads beginning to give away due to weather and
traffic is limited to trips absolutely necessary.

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REST

Fr: 0001, 9 March 1945
To: 2400, 9 March 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Continued to occupy and outpost towns of Alteckendorf and Morschwiller. Prepared to support troops in CCA Z. At 1600 tanks from B-25 fired seven rounds on reported enemy CP vic Engwiller. At 1610 AGs and A-25 fired two rounds per weapon on woods East of Bitschoffen vic 928288 - 932282, Mortar Platoon with 42 AIB also fired this mission. Firing as part of CCA coordinated fire plan. At 1815 Multiple Rocket Launcher, C-25, fired on reported enemy CP in woods East of Bitschhoffen vic 941287. Weather: Cloudy in morning to partly cloudy in afternoon, continued cool.

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Fr: 0001, 10 March 1945
To: 2400, 10 March 1945

Bn CP in Alteckendorf. Outposted and occupied towns of Alteckendorf and Morschwiller. Prepared to support troops in CCA Z. At 1610 A-25 fired two rounds per gun on woods East of Betschhoffen vic 928288. At same time, AGs fired two rounds per gun on woods E of Bitschhoffen vic 933282. This firing as part of CCA coordinated fire plan. Multiple Rocket Launcher fired on reported enemy positions in woods E of Bitschhoffen vic 943288 at 1610. Plans being made for move to vic Wintershausen. Weather: Cloudy, minimum temperature 36 degrees.

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Fr: 0001, 11 March 1945
To: 2400, 11 March 1945

Bn attached to CCB at 1430. Marched from Alteckendorf-Morschwiller to Ohlungen and Uhlwiller. Bn moved out at 1400 and closed in new location at 1730. Area defense and town security established. 2-A-25 attached to 19 AIB at 1430. Section B-25 from CCA control to 25 control. Section A-25 attached to CCB as CP security. C-25 (-) to CCA reserve, section C-25 to CCA as CP security, platoon C-25 remains with 68 AIB. Two rounds 120mm mortar fell in Morschwiller injuring two A-25 men. Bn CP established in Ohlungen.

---

Fr: 0001, 12 March 1945
To: 2400, 12 March 1945

Outposted town of Ohlungen and continued to maintain defensive positions in CCB Z. AGs fired missions as below:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1415-1420 | 25 rounds | Factory North of Schweighausen | 002253 |
| 1435-1445 | 50 rounds | Strip of RR N of " | 007255 |
| 1450-1500 | 50 rounds | " " " " " | 012253 |

Rcn Platoon manning 24 hour observation post in building just outside of Schweighausen vic 995243. Weather: Cloudy, slightly warmer, minimum temperature 40 degrees.

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S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 13 March 1945
To: 2400, 13 March 1945

Outposted, occupied town of Ohlungen and maintained defensive positions in CCB Z. AGs fired missions on RR and RR and Highway Junction North of Schweighausen vic 001257 as below:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1500-1505 | 30 rounds. |
| 1505-1515 | 60 " |
| 1535-1540 | 30 " |

Above firing as part of CCB coordinated fireplan.
Mortar Platoon went into firing position N of Ohlungen vic 977243 and section tanks from B-25 tied in with AGs. Rcn Platoon manning observation post vic Schweighausen. 25 given mission of firing all smoke missions for CCB while in this sector. From 0630-0700 approximately 12 rounds of enemy Arty fell in Ohlungen vic CP. Estimated to be 150mm and 75mm. Two casualties, Capt Sexton, Bn Surgeon, and Cpl McKinney, driver of Comd Half Track. Weather: Clear, warm, minimum temperature 40 degrees.

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Fr: 0001, 14 March 1945
To: 2400, 14 March 1945

Bn CP in Ohlungen. Outposted town and maintained defensive positions in Z. Bn alerted to support troops in CCB Z in event of enemy C/A in Z. AGs and Tanks B-25 fired following missions:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1920-1930 | AGs | 60 rds | Factory vic 003253 | (Haguenau 7&8) |
| 1930-1940 | Tks | 80 rds | " " " | " " |
| 1940-1945 | AGs | 30 rds | " " " | " " |
| 1940-1945 | Tks | 40 rds | Railroad vic 010253 | " " |

Mortar Platoon remained in firing positions and registered on check point. Rcn Platoon continued manning 24 hour OP in factory vic Schweighausen. Weather: Clear, continued warm, minimum temperature 40 degrees.
At 1945 Lt Col McCullom to CP with advance information re being attached to CCA for forthcoming operation. At 1845, Bn S-3 and Ex O returned from meeting at CCA with orders and plans for coming operation. VI Corps attacking in Z. 36th leading attack, 14th in support with CCA to pass through 36 elements once they make a breakthrough. Mission of CCA to push on swiftly toward Wissembourg, route Urberach, Mertzwiller, Eschbach, Wallbourg, Surbourg, Soultz, Hoffen, Hunspach, Oberseebach, Wissembourg. CCA to operate in three columns: 68th, 25th, Task Force Blue commanded by Major Townsend. 25 composition: A-68 C-25, Hq & Hq 25, 3-C-94, 2-C-125, Medics, Bn Maint. Bn Commander returned from trip to Brussels at 2200.

---

Fr: 0001, 15 March 1945
To: 2400, 15 March 1945

From 0645-0745 AGs and Tanks fired smoke mission on area vic RR North of Schweighausen. Continued to outpost Ohlungen and maintain defensive positions in zone. At 1430 Ln O with orders for 25 column to group vic Dingeldorf and Ettendorf. Move executed with B-25 being attached to 68 AIB, A-25 to Task Force Blue, D-25 to CCA Reserve. Following attachments to 25 effective 1700. A-68, 2-C-125, 3-C-94. Hq & Hq 25, A-68, 2-C-125, Medics and Bn Maint assembled in Ettendorf, C-25 remained in Dingeldorf, 3-C-94 remained with parent unit in Mertzwiller to join 25 when column moves out. 25 closed in assembly area at 1700. All attachments and detachments effective at 1700. Bn placed on one hour alert. Rcn Pl and Mortar Pl returned from pos & assembled in Ettendorf.
Weather: Clear, continued warm

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Fr: 0001, 16 March 1945
To: 2400, 16 March 1945

Bn CP in Ettendorf. 25 with attachments in assembly area on one hour alert prepared to execute mission of passing through 36 Inf Div and attacking towards Wissembourg. Weather: Clear, continued warm.

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Fr: 0001, 17 March 1945
To: 2400, 17 March 1945

Bn CP in Ettendorf. Remains in assembly area alerted to pass through 36 lines and proceed on mission. At 0840 Bn placed on 30 minute alert. At 1030 Bn CO from CCA with orders, "Be prepared to move when 36th takes Soultz. Remain on 30 minute alert. Objective may be changed to Lauterburg." At 2315 Bn CO from CCA with orders, "Move out at 0500, as part of CCA column, behind 500 FA, mission Lauterbourg, route: Uberach, Hartzwiller, Morsbronn, Gunstett, Surbourg, Soultz, Kuhlendorf, Leiterswiller, Stundwiller, Trimbach, Siegbach, Lauterbourg. Upon reaching Surbourg, 68 to take a southern route and 25 lead on attacking on route as above. Weather: Clear, continued warm.

---

Fr: 0001, 18 March 1945
To: 2400, 18 March 1945

At 0100 La O with orders changing moving out time from 0500 to 0400. Bn moved out on mission at 0400 following 68, 125, battery 500 FA. Leading elements through Surbourg at 0940. At this time the battalion left CCA column and proceeded on separate mission towards Wissembourg. Leading elements through Hohwiller at 1000. Reached Leiterswiller at 1045, and found all bridges blown across stream. No bypasses found. Engineers platoon started on log bridge. Completed bridge at 1520. During construction, platoon Inf from A-68 dismounted and proceeded on mission of entering Stundwiller. Platoon reached Oberroedern and returned reporting no contact with enemy. Column moved out over bridge at 1520. Thru Oberroedern at 1540 and Stundwiller at 1600. Column held up by two large craters in road between Stundwiller and Ashbach. Bypassed craters, reached Ashbach at 1630. Thru Oberseebach at 1700, Geitershof at 1720. During the advance to this point no organized resistance was encountered but several Germans surrendered or were found in hiding. Column halted North of Geitershof vic road to Riedseltz. Platoon of Inf went forward toward Altenstadt following railroad leading to Altenstadt - Wissembourg. At overpass vic 173456 were pinned down by enemy Arty and Mortar fire coming from vic Altenstadt. Bridge over RR was blown. At 1830 Bn went into defensive positions around Geitershof and consolidated gains. Two enemy tanks were located vic 170453 with considerable personnel movement in that vicinity. AGs went into firing position and fired mission on these positions (observed). During day captured towns of Soultz, Hohwiller, Leiterswiller, Hoffen, Oberroedern, Stundwiller, Aschbach, Oberseebach, Geitershof. 18 prisoners taken. Weather: Cloudy, minimum temperature 38 degrees.

---

Fr: 0001, 19 March 1945
To: 2400, 19 March 1945

Bn jumped off at 0700, continuing atrack on Altenstadt. Platoon tanks C-25 and Platoon Inf A-68 in assault wave. Axis of attack on Altenstadt generally along line of RR and Hwy from South. At 0840 leading Platoons reached point 173466 where they ran into small arms and bazooka fire. Another platoon of Inf sent forward to reinforce tank platoon and Inf Platoon. Advance elements advanced slowly on town receiving considerable Arty, Mortar, and direct fire during advance. Three AT guns located and were KO'd by tanks from C-25. Altenstadt entered at 1100 and town cleared of remaining enemy by 1145. Bridge blown in Altenstadt and Engrs started putting in bridge. Column bypassed blown bridge after getting permission to use road through Wissembourg. Moved out at 1430 and entered Schweighofen at 1700. Town cleared of enemy by 1745 and attack halted for night. Tanks and Inf went into defensive positions around town. During day captured towns of Altenstadt, Schweighofen. Captured 23 prisoners. Bn CP established in house in W edge of Schweighofen. Heavy enemy artillery concentration fell in near vic CP at 1800 and intermittently during night. At 2240 Ln O with orders from higher Hq to push on, take up assault positions at night, send patrol to test Seigfried defenses around Steinfeld.

Fr: 0001, 20 March 1945
To: 2400, 20 March 1945

Bn went into attack position just North of Kapsweyer at 0200-0400 prepared to jump off at 0600. Two platoons C-25 in assault with platoon A-68 attached to each of these platoons. Remaining platoon tanks and Inf in support followed by AGs-25, Mortars, Engr Platoon, and Rcn Platoon. Two patrols from A-68 and one from 3-C-94 advanced towards dragons teeth with mission of testing defensive system at 0200. At 0300, orders from CCA placing 25 in reserve. Combat elements moved back to former defensive positions in Schweighofen. At 0330 Lt Bardwell and 9 men from 2-C-125 advanced to dragons teeth and blew out one row of seven. Drew no fire during operation and returned at 0550. Section tanks C-25 to position North of Kapsweyer vic 206902 supporting attack of Inf. Fired 76's on pillboxes in Siegfried line. 76's made slight penetration but otherwise had no effect. AGs fired mission on Siegfried defenses vic Steinfeld at 1145-1200. Medium Arty fell on Sweighofen intermittently during day. Several casualties. Weather: Partly cloudy, minimum temperature 40 degrees.

Fr: 0001, 21 March 1945
To: 2400, 21 March 1945

Bn CP remained in Schweighofen. C-25 went into firing positions N of Kapsweyer supporting Inf attack. Fired intermittently on defensive positions in Siegfried line. In morning received heavy artillery fire estimated to be 170mm or larger, received intermittent arty fire in afternoon. A-25 relieved from Task Force Blue, reverted to 25 control at 0001. 3-C-94 and 2-C-125 reverted to parent units at 1130. During hours of darkness Engr Platoon advanced to dragons teeth and blew out two more rows of teeth. AGs fired intermittently on Siegfried defenses during day. CO to meeting CCA at 2200, returned at 2230 with orders moving 25 through dragons teeth into Steinfeld with mission of supporting Inf attack, protecting left flank from Steinfeld to Schaidt. Weather: Visibility excellent, Min Temp 40.

# S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 22 March 1945
To: 2400, 22 March 1945

Bn moved out at 0155, head of column passed thru dragons teeth at approx 0230. Leading company reported road blocks in center of town of Steinfeld, unable to move any further forward. During early hours of AM column received tremendous artillery concentration in Steinfeld. Inf continued to clear Steinfeld during morning with assistance of A-25. Large number of PWs captured. During afternoon A-25, C-25 and AGs took up firing positions on N flank of Steinfeld and fired on pillboxes. One A Company tank knocked out by direct fire weapon from vic pillboxes in Seigfried line. Late in afternoon orders received to make armored attack on Schaidt at once. Plans made by CCR but cancelled due to late hour, no prior ren, and known tank ditch which had not been breached. Throughout the day and night continuous heavy artillery concentrations fell on Steinfeld. Two tanks damaged by artillery fire. Plans made during night for early morning attack on Schaidt and continued breaching of Seigfried Line. A Company reported knocking out three pillboxes during day. Orders received at 2330 for attack to be launched next day. 68th to attack Schaidt with two companies before daybreak. 25 to protect flank of attack and follow Inf attack. A-48 (-), 1 Plat TD's, attached to Battalion.

---

Fr: 0001, 23 March 1945
To: 2400, 23 March 1945

Attack launched 0500 with A on right, C on left, B in center with A-48 and TD Platoon in reserve. At approximately day break B-25 lost 2 tanks knocked out by direct fire weapons firing from pillboxes NE of Steinfeld. A-25 on right protected right flank by fire, unable to cross RR track due to marshy ground S of tracks. A & B Cos held up by direct fire weapon from pillboxes previously mentioned. C-25 on left continued moving and succeeding in knocking out 5 pillboxes and capturing approx 50 PWs. A-48 and attached TD Platoon committed behind C Company to protect their left flank. TD's KO'd three pillboxes. Attack moved forward again with all three companies abreast succeeded in reaching enemy AT ditch. All tanks fired all weapons and Arty laid smoke on far side of ditch to enable tank dozer to come forward and fill in passage over AT ditch. At 1100, three passages were completed, Bn moved on into Schaidt and reached far edge of town where head of column halted awaiting further orders. Mission had been accomplished. At 1330 reinforced tank platoon 1-C-25 (Lt Chrisman) moved out on mission of strong Ren to town of Freckenfeld to complete breaching of Seigfried line if possible. KO'd two 88 AT guns, bypassed one blown bridge, halted and called for tank dozer to fill in the last tank obstacle. Moved into Freckenfeld after breaching had been completed, engaged in short sharp fight to clear town which was completed at 1730, enabling CCA and R to continue rapid movement to East in pursuit of now badly disorganised enemy. Bn remained in Schaidt prepared to join CCA column as it passes through. Had not moved by close of period. Results of operation was complete breaching of Seigfried line enable the Division to drive toward Rhine.

Fr: 0001, 24 March 1945
To: 2400, 24 March 1945

Battalion in assembly area in Schaidt prepared to move as part of CCA column to assembly area vic Hellheim. Moved out at 1200 following Hq CCA and B-25 with mission of going into assembly area vic Hellheim prepared to cross Rhine River at Germersheim. When 25 column reached Minderslachen, was ordered to halt in place as bridge at Germersheim was reported blown, time 1500. At 1730 Bn Officer with orders to move Bn to assembly area Schaidt, moved out at 1?05 and closed in Schaidt at 2000. Road blocks established on all roads entering town, roving patrols operated on all roads in area vic Schaidt and local security established within town. Weather: Clear, warm, minimum temperature 42 degrees. Bn CP established in center of town.

---

Fr: 0001, 25 March 1945
To: 2400, 25 March 1945

Bn CP in Schaidt. Outposted and occupied town of Schaidt. Roving patrols operated throughout the area. A-68 spent day searching pillboxes, trenches, abandoned enemy defensive positions. Guards maintained on pillboxes after search to keep enemy from returning to occupy same. All outposts, patrols and interior guard alerted to be on lookout for any enemy personnel, military or civilian returning to occupy emplacements. Weather: Cloudy, slightly cooler.

---

Fr: 0001, 26 March 1945
To: 2400, 26 March 1945

No change.

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Fr: 0001, 27 March 1945
To: 2400, 27 March 1945

Bn CP in Schaidt. Entire day spent policing area and cleaning out pillboxes using PWs. Maintenance performed by all crews. Outposted and occupied town of Schaidt. Plans made for Route Rcn to be made by personnel of [illegible] and selected personnel from each line company. Lt [illegible], [illegible] Company, in charge. At 1900, meeting of Company Commanders and staff for critique of last operation. Weather: Cloudy, with rain, slightly cooler.

---

Fr: 0001, 28 March 1945
To: 2400, 28 March 1945

Bn CP in Schaidt. Outposted and occupied town of Schaidt. Continued maintenance and police of area and pillboxes in area, using PWs as laborers. Bn Rcn party under Lt Williams left at 0730 to make Route Rcn of roads, bridges vic [illegible]- ltring. Relieved from CCA, attached to CCR at 0930. Weather: Cloudy in morning to partly cloudy in afternoon, min Temp 3? degrees. B-25 reverted to 25 control at 0930, remained in Frechenfeld. A-68 reverted to parent unit at 0930, remained in Schaidt.

---

Fr: 0001, 29 March 1945
To: 2400, 29 March 1945

Bn CP in Schaidt, outposted and occupied town. Continued police of area and pillboxes within area. Battalion Ren Party returned from route reconnaissance vic Warms-Altripp at 1500, reported all roads in this vicinity in excellent condition. Lt Williams, officer in charge, made personal report to Commanding Officer, CCA. General Smith, Commanding General, 14th Armored Division, visited area at 1030 and presented awards to members of Battalion (see S-1 Annex). At 2130 Ln Officer with warning order: "After 0600, 30 March 1945, be prepared to move to assembly area vic Worms prepared to cross Rhine. Go on 4 hour alert at that time." Weather: Cloudy with rain in late afternoon, minimum temperature 38 degrees. D-25 detached and attached to Division Trains, 1800.

---

Fr: 0001, 30 March 1945
To: 2400, 30 March 1945

Bn CP in Schaidt. Outposted, occupied town of Schaidt and continued police of area and pillboxes within area. Warning order to all companies: "Will move to assembly area vic Ludwigshafen preparatory to crossing Rhine River, 25 to march as part of CCR column. Route: Barbelruth, Billigheim, Herxheim, Offenbach, Bornheim, Hochstadt, Weingartner, Friesbach, Gommersheim, Geirsheim, RJ East and North to Hanhofen, Iggelsheim, Hochdorf, Assembly area. All Cos and Detachments on 4 hour alert. Order of March and times later." Order published at 0900. Present plans tentative.

---

Fr: 0001, 31 March 1945
To: 2400, 31 March 1945

At 0910 Ln Officer from CCR with order sending billeting officer to CCR. Capt Emmet to CCR as billeting officer at 0930. At 1245 Ln Officer with warning order: "Be prepared to move vic [illegible]heim today." At 1715 Ln Officer with march order covering move to [illegible]. Division to move out at 1545. Order of march within Division: 94, CCA, Div Hq, Div Arty, CCR, CCB, 125, 398, 636, Tns. Order of march CCR: [illegible], 94, CCR, 25, CCA Rifle Company. Order of march within Bn: C, [illegible], Hq & Hq. B, Ser, Med, Maint. IP: Bergzabern. Rate 12. Density 25. 3 minute interval between companies, [illegible] minutes between Bns. Route: Bergzabern, Landau, Offenbach, Herrwiller, [illegible], Hoflasch, Merkenheim, Niederkirchlen, Weisenheim, Lambsheim, Frankenthal, [illegible]sheim, Pfeddersheim, Mouchsen, Dormstadt, [illegible]ssdorf. Bn prepared to move.

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S-1 Annex to Unit Journal

Period 1-31 March 1945

1. a. KIA :
   Officers: 1
   EM : 4

   b. MIA :
   Officers: None
   EM : None

   c. WIA :
   Officers: 1
   EM : 26

   d. NBC :
   Officers: None
   EM : 15

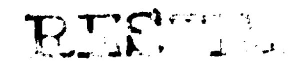
2. Prisoners of War: 75

3. Roster of Key Personnel:
   Commanding Officer: Lt Col A. C. Watson
   Executive Officer: Major W. E. Phillips
   Operations Officer (S-3): Major . . hedd, III
   Intelligence Officer (S-2): Capt . T. mmet, Jr.
   S-3 Air Communications Officer: Capt . V. Horne
   Adjutant (S-1): 1st Lt . . O'Donnell
   Supply Officer (S-4): Capt . . wift (1st Lt . ax ) Act'g)
   Liaison Officer: 1st Lt . C. Hampton
   Battalion Surgeon: Capt L. . exton
   CO Hq Co: Capt R. . rintup
   CO Co A : 1st Lt J. R. Martin
   CO Co B : Capt H. L. Swager
   CO Co C : Capt A. . Winiarczyk
   CO Co D : Capt . H. Smith
   CO Ser Co : Capt A. H. Green

4. Promotions:
   a. Officers: To Capt: 1st Lt . V. Horne
   To 2nd Lt: M/Sgt M. . Throckmorton
   To 2nd Lt: S/Sgt R. C. McClarren

   b. EM: To 1st/Sgt: S/Sgt Delay
   To S/Sgt: Sgt Hargraves
   To S/Sgt: Sgt Short

5. Decorations and Awards:
   a. Bronze Star: Pfc Click
   S/Sgt Shelton
   Pfc White
   Sgt Rowden



HEADQUARTERS
25TH TANK BATTALION
APO 446 US ARMY



10 May 1945

SUBJECT: Unit Historical Report

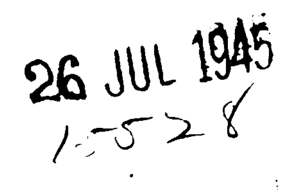
TO : Commanding General, 14th Armored Division,
APO 446, U. S. Army.
(Thru: CCR)

1. Attached hereto is the Unit Historical Report for this Battalion covering the period 1 to 30 April 1945.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

William E. Shedd III

WILLIAM E. SHEDD, III,
Major, 25th Tank Battalion,
S-3







S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 1 April 1945
To: 2400, 1 April 1945

Battalion moved out from Schaidt at 0210, mission; move as part of CCR column to assembly area vicinity of Gr Bieberau. Followed previously prescribed route and closed in Gr Bieberau at 1600. Seventeen tanks dropped out of column during march due to blown boogies. Immediately upon closing in Gr Bieberau, Battalion placed on two hour alert, further orders to follow. Weather: Clear, warm.

---

Fr: 0001, 2 April 1945
To: 2400, 2 April 1945

Battalion Commander from CCR at 0400 with orders: Division attack in morning with Neustadt as objective. Division in two columns, CCA on left, CCB on right, CCR in reserve, 501 Arty supporting CCB, CCB. Axis of attack: Lengfeld, Aubach, Hocht, Sandbach, Breuberg, Breitenbach, Lutzelbach, Seckmauem, Worth, Erlenbach, Mechenhard, Streit, Eschau, Aulenbach, Krausenbach, Rohrbrunn. CCR to follow CCB. A-25 attached to 62; B-62 attached to 25, Platoon C Co 63? TD Bn attached to 25. Order march within Bn: Pl-B-25, Pl B-62, Pl B-25, CO Party, B-62 (-), C-25 plus attached TD's, AGs, Hq & Hq Co, 2-A-125, Medics, Mortars, Combat Tns, Sec B-25. Bn moved out at 0800 and remained in road fighting column all day being held up at 1600 when leading elements met resistance in Luhr consisting of small arms and snipers. Bn remained on road until dark when ordered to disperse vehicles on sides of roads for night. Bn CP established at RJ East of Rohrbrunn, (203449). Weather: Cloudy, intermittent rains during day and night.

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0001, 3 April 1945
2400, 3 April 1945

Bn Commander from CCR at 0900: CCB has Lohr, when secure line generally North to South through Gemunden, CCR pass through to continue attack toward objective, Neustadt. CCR to attack in two columns, 62 on left, 25 on right. After taking objective, make reconnaissance to Bamberg, Coburg, be prepared to carry on attack on order. B-62 reverted to parent control at 0900. B-25 to CCR reserve at 0900. CCR Rifle Co (Capt Hess Comdg) to 25 at 0900. Order of march within Bn: Pl C-25, Pl Rifle Co, AGs, CO Party, C-25 (-), Rifle Co (-), Hq & Hq Co, 2-A-125, Medics, Mortar, Combat Tns. Bn remained in position vic Rohrbrunn. Weather: Cloudy, intermittent rains.

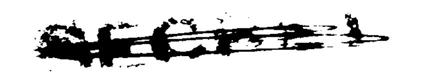
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Fr: 0001, 4 April 1945
To: 2400, 4 April 1945

Bn column remained dispersed on sides of road vic Rohrbrunn until 1100 when ordered to close on CCB just East of Lohr. CCB held up by blown bridge in Gemunden. Column closed on CCB with head of 25 column just West of Lohr, closed at 1600. No bypass was found across stream at Gemunden and due to width of stream, was difficult to place bridge across immediately. Battalion ordered into assembly area off road just NE of Lohr and closed at 2000. Weather: Cloudy all day.

---

Donald Cameron 17 Aug



R

# S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 5 April 1945
To: 2400, 5 April 1945

Battalion in assembly area just NE of Lohr. CCR Column unable to pass through CCR due to difficulty in placing bridge across stream in Gemunden. Bridge expected to be completed by morning. Plans changed, CCR to move in one column after passing through CCB, 62 leading, objective remains Neustadt. At 1700, B-25 released to 25. Weather: Cloudy with rain in late afternoon.

---

Fr: 0001, 6 April 1945
To: 2400, 6 April 1945

Bridge across stream at Gemunden completed at 0400. CCR immediately started moving across passing through CCB. 25 column moved onto road from assembly area followed CCR as leading element (62) took towns of Gossenheim, Aschfeld, Munster. Held up by blown bridge at Buhler at 1600. Bypass found and leading elements into town after clearing up light resistance. Attack halted for night and 25 went into assembly area off road at Gossenheim. Closed at 2000.

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Fr: 0001, 7 April 1945
To: 2400, 7 April 1945

Bn moved onto road at 0900, remained in CCR column as leading elements took towns of Hundsbach, Obersfeld, Gauaschach, Neu Bessingen, Burfershausen, Schwemmelsbach, held up in Gressthal by heavy artillery fire at 1400. Plans for 25 to move N as separate column cancelled when other friendly elements were reported in Wasserlosen. Bn moved into assembly area Neu Bessingen, closed at 2000. Commanding Officer from CCR at 2100; Div to be relieved in sector, 48 has taken Neustadt, Div objective, be prepared to move to assembly area to North vic Neustadt. Weather, clear, warm.

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Fr: 0001, 8 April 1945
To: 2400, 8 April 1945

Bn in assembly area Neu Bessingen awaiting further movement orders. 1-D-25 reverted to 25 control at 1900. Weather: Clear, warm, minimum temperature 45 degrees.

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Fr: 0001, 9 April 1945
To: 2400, 9 April 1945

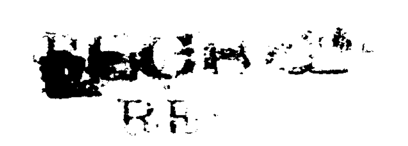
Bn in assembly area New Bessingen. At 1100 Bn O with movement orders to new assembly area vic Anslahen. Route Gressthal, Sulzthal, Bad Kissengin, Munnerstadt, Merchfeld, assembly area. Billeting party left at 1145. Bn moved out at 1330, order of march: C-25 plus TD's, CCR Rifle Co, Hq Hq Co, A-25 plus Engrs, Ser Co, Medics, Trains, Bn Maint, 1-D-25. Followed above route and closed in assembly area Frickenhausen at 2330.

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Fr: 0001, 10 April 1945
To: 2400, 10 April 1945

Bn in assembly area Frickenhausen awaiting further orders. Time devoted to maintenance vehicles, weapons and personal cleanliness. Weather: Clear, warm, minimum temperature 45 degrees.

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R.B.

Fr: 0001, 11 April 1945
To: 2400, 11 April 1945

Bn in assembly area Frickenhausen. 1300 warning order from Ln O, details to follow. 1500, orders for Bn to move to assembly area vic Bedheim. Billiting party to CCR at 1520. Bn to move in CCR column following 501 following route: Muhlfeld, Schw...ker...usen, ...dheim, Queienfeld, Haina, Rom...ld, Hiefeld, assembly area. Order march within battalion: C Co plus TD's, Rifle Co, Hq & Hq Co, B Co plus Engrs, Maint, and Medics, Service Co and Lt Tk platoon. Bn moved out at 1830 following prescribed route closing in assembly area vic Bedheim ... 2400. Weather: Clear, continued warm.

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Fr: 0001, 12 April 1945
To: 2400, 12 April 1945

...1, Bn CO from CCR with orders for attack by CCR. Objective Schney, Licktenfels. CCR to attack in two columns, 25 on left, 61 on right. At 0600 Bn moved out from assembly area vic Bedheim, mission reach Main River vic Licktenfels, Schney, secure crossings. Order of march: Lt Tk Plat (-), 1-C-25, 1 Rifle Co, TDs, AGs, CO Party, C Co (-), Rifle Co (-), Hq & Hq Co (-), Engr Plat, Medics, Mortars, Trains and Sect Lt Tks. Attacked following general route, Stressenhausen, Steinfeld, Hishausen, ...hausen, Rodach, ...hausen, ... Coburg, Hauerstadt, ...lbach, Grossheirach, Obersieman. No resistance encountered until head of column reached Lichtenfels at 1... where small amount of small arms and bazooka fire was encountered. Bridge across Main at Licktenfels blown. Mortar Platoon moved forward into position and laid smoke screen on east bank of river while Inf crossed entering town, and started clearing town. Upon first receiving fire from the town, tanks from C-25 fired on town starting many fires. Town surrendered at approx 150 . Inf moved on through and outposted the town. Ford found just above blown bridge and before dark two platoons of C-25 crossed, entered town and assisted infantry in outposting. Two platoons of B-25 entered town of ...lau just N of Licktenfels in late afternoon, encountered no resistance, occupied and outposted. Captured 25 PWs during day and captured towns of Schney, Licktenfels and ...eibelau. Weather: Cloudy with light showers in late afternoon.

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Fr: 0001, 13 April 1945
To: 2400, 13 April 1945

At 0515 remaining elements of Bn crossed Main River at Lichtenfels at ford just ... of blown bridge. Completed crossing and continued on new mission of occupying town of Roth. Followed route ~~xxx~~Mistelfeld, Langheim, closed in Roth at 1230. B-25 moved to Obersdorf to occupy and outpost, 1-C-25 with Sec TDs, 1 Plat Inf and Sect D-25 to town of Altendorf to occupy and outpost. At 1500 Bn received orders to move to assembly area vic Alldorf. Moved out at 1600 following route Isling, Burkheim, ..., ..., ...dorf, ..., Alldorf. Bn closed in assembly area Alldorf at 2130 and outposted town. 25 PWs captured on march to assembly area. Weather: Partly cloudy, slightly cooler, minimum temperature 40 degrees.

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Fr: 0001, 14 April 1945
To: 2400, 14 April 1945

Battalion occupied and outposted town of Alldorf. At 0930 Bn CO from CCR with orders, move to assembly area vic Haas upon Division Order. 1-D-25 attached to Div Arty as Security Force. Three PWs captured from woods vicinity of ...lion area. Weather: Clear, minimum temperature 42 degrees.



S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 15 April 1945
To: 2400, 15 April 1945

Bn moved out at 0800, mission of moving to assembly area Haag. Route Trobersdorf, Mistelgau, Pittersdorf, Haag. Followed above route and closed in Haag at 1230. While column was on road vic Haag, Ln O from CCR with orders to send two platoons of medium tanks and one platoon Inf to Creussen to assist 94 being attacked in that town. Two platoons B-25 and one platoon CCR Rifle Company moved out at 1145 via route Autoban, Trockau, Lindenhardt, Schwurz. Between Schwurz and Gottsfeld ran into direct fire from enemy tanks firing from vicinity of Gottsfeld and four tanks were hit, two being destroyed. Remaining tanks pulled back out of fire and Infantry platoon dismounted with mission of entering town. Entered town and cleared it by 1500. Considerable enemy artillery fell on town during time infantry was clearing it. When Infantry had cleared town, tanks then entered. Bn CO and CO B-25 advanced dismounted to east edge of town and noted considerable vehicular movement in woods just east of town. Tanks were moved to east edge of town,before dark had knocked out five enemy Mark IV tanks in the vicinity of these woods. It was evident these tanks were trying to break out and return further into their own lines. One tank was knocked out by our 76's at an estimated range of 6000 yards. Tanks and infantry continued on mission and at 1700 had entered town of Gruessen. The assistance of B-25 and Inf from CCR Rifle platoon in moving in from the west and knocking out five enemy tanks helped considerable towards relieving the situation in Cruessen. Town of Haag outposted, observation post manned by Mortar Platoon and roving patrols covering roads vic battalion area maintained by tanks from D-25 and Rcn Platoon. 58 PWs captured. Weather: Cloudy all day, minimum temperature 40 degrees. Platoon D-25 with division artillery relieved to 25 at 0?00.

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Fr: 0001, 16 April 1945
To: 2400, 16 April 1945

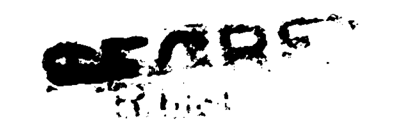
Bn CP in Haag. Occupied and outposted town. B-25 (-) plus 2-A-125 occupied and outposted town of Creussen. Platoon C-25 (Lt Chrisman) and platoon CCR Rifle Co occupied town of Gottsfeld, and sent section tanks with Inf to Kraimoos. No resistance encountered within town. Captured 17 prisoners. Mortar Platoon with two assault guns patrolled area in Bn zone entering towns of Gr Weiglareath, Klein, Gottsfeld, Schwurz, Wasserkraut, Lankenreuth. No resistance in these towns; captured two prisoners. Active patrolling continued in Bn zone. Weather: Clear and warm, minimum temperature 45 degrees. 1-D-25 attached to CCR Reserve.

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Fr: 0001, 17 April 1945
To: 2400, 17 April 1945

Bn CP in Haag. Occupied and outposted town with B-25 (-) and 2-A-125 occupying and outposted town of Creussen; platoon C-25 with infantry platoon CCR Rifle Co occupying and outposting town of Gottsfeld. One platoon CCR Rifle Co patrolled woods to E and SE of Gottsfeld to road running generally N & S, Creussen-Schnabelwaid. Captured ten prisoners, killed one enemy and wounded two. 1-D-25 reverted to 25 control. Battalion in process of being relieved by 5th Inf Regt, 71st Div. Relief completed by 2230. Plans made for Bn to move to assembly area vic Pignitz and on order move from there to new assembly area vic Litzllohe. Weather: Clear and warm, minimum temperature 45 degrees

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Fr: 0001, 18 April 1945
To: 2400, 18 April 1945

Bn moved out from Haag at 0930; order march C Co plus TDs, B Co plus Engrs, Hq & Hq Co, CCR Rifle Co, Medics, Service Co. Mission: Move to assembly area Neudorf, route autobahn to Neudorf. Closed in assembly area Neudorf at 1130. Bn to remain in this assembly area until 62 AIB completely relieved in zone. CCR in Div Res. Bn moved out at 1510 on New mission of moving to assembly area Litzlohe. Route: Autobahn S to Pignitz, Altensittenbach, Altdorf, Gradenberg, Sindlbach, Litzlohe. Closed at 0915, outposted and set up perimeter defense of town. Enroute to assembly area column bambed and straffed by enemy plane at 1645 vic Ostenhohe. No casualties. At 1510 platoon C-25 moved out of column, mission move to Hirschbach to relieve Service Btry 69 FA being attacked by MG and small arms fire. Reached Hirschbach but made no contact with enemy. Rejoined Bn in Litzlohe.

---

Fr: 0001, 19 April 1945
To: 2400, 19 April 1945

Bn CP in Litzllohe. Battalion (-) occupied and outposted town. At 1530 on orders from CCR, 25 widened sector due to 62 AIB moving S of Nurnberg to protect rear of 45th Inf Div. B-25 (-) with 2-A-125 moved to town of Deinschwang. Occupied and outposted, blocking all roads entering town. Two squads CCR Rifle Co plus two TDs moved to Ballertshofen, outposted, occupied and blocked all roads. Two squads CCR Rifle Co plus two TDs moved to Obried, occupied, outposted and blocked all roads. Captured 4 PWs. Weather: Clear, minimum temperature 45 degrees.

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Fr: 0001, 20 April 1945
To: 2400, 20 April 1945

At 1400 Bn CO from CCR with orders for Bn to move south as leading element of CCR, mission, secure crossing of Danube River. Initially move to assembly area vic Eysolden, make Rcn south to Danube. Order march CCR: 25, Hq CCR, 501, 62. Order march within Bn: Plat C-25, Plat CCR Rifle Co, TDs, AGs, CO Party, C Co (-), CCR Rifle Co (-), B Co, Engineers, Hq & Hq Co, Medics, Mortars, Trains. Bn moved out at 1430, route Altdorf, Furth, Autobahn south. Ran into blown bridge just south of Furth at 1600, bypass found and Bn proceeded on mission at 1420. Received direct fire from Allersberg when head of column reached point 1000 yards S of Altenfelden at 1800. Tanks fired several rounds into Allersburg where fire was coming from and Inf moved out on mission entering town. Before reaching objective was called back for artillery to work town over. Bn took up defensive position vic Altenfelden at 1900 with special security established. Arty fired intermittently during night on Allersberg and reported enemy positions in that vicinity. Bn to proceed on mission at 0630, 21 April 1945.

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Fr: 0001, 21 April 1945
To: 2400, 21 April 1945

Bn prepared to move out on mission at 0630 when three enemy tanks sighted on high ground SE of Allersberg. C Co tanks and TDs brought them under fire knocking out two of them. Bn moved onto autobahn at 0900, order march: Pl C-25, Pl CCR Rifle Co, C Co (-), Rifle Co (-), AGs, CO Party, B Co (-). When head of column reached point on Autobahn directly west of Allersberg, received direct fire. Enemy Inf estimated at 100 men seen approaching Altenfelden at 0915. Column halted and tanks placed in defensive positions around town, Inf from CCR Reserve took up positions NE of town and approaching enemy brought under fire. Mortar Platoon went into position placing effective fire on enemy. At 1500 after heavy firing of tank weapons and small arms, counter attack repulsed. One platoon C-25 plus one section and two platoons CCR Rifle Co succeeded in moving on down Authbahn and entered town of Goggelsbuch. Remained there holding town. During counterattack, one AG and one TD lost from being hit with direct fire west of Allersberg and two tanks from B-25 (one 75 and one 76) knocked out on high ground E of Altenfelden bu direct fire.

S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr. 0001, 21 April 1945
To: 2400, 21 April 1945
Continued

All during day enemy large caliber artillery fell on Altenfelden and vicinity causing several casualties. Captain Swager, CO B-25, killed by sniper while making personal reconnaissance west of Allersberg vic Autobahn. Battalion held defensive position around Altenfelden during night and plans made for C-25 (-) plus elements 62 and CCR Rifle Co to attack Allersberg from west vic Goggelsbuch in morning.

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Fr: 0001, 22 April 1945
To: 2400, 22 April 1945

Battalion holding high ground around Altenfelden as C-25 (-) with one Inf Co from 62 and CCR Rifle Co (-) attacking Allersberg. Attacked in early morning but could not advance due to heavy direct fire and dug in infantry in woods south of objective. Ordered to attack again and same force attacked at 1630 with tanks from B-25 supporting by firing from their positions vic Altenfelden. Attack unsuccessful due to heavy enemy tank fire and infantry in woods. More Inf needed to make successful attack. At 2030 Ln O from CCR; CCA moving to vic Allersberg, upon closing, 25 attached to them. Mission: To reduce resistance Allersberg. At 2000 CCR Rifle Co (-) returned to Altenfelden. At approximately 2200 enemy cut Autobahn N of Altenfelden. Platoon D-25 started continuous patrolling of road. One tank hit by enemy bazooka fire at 2300 destroying tank. All during day two to five rounds enemy artillery fell on our positions every hour.

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Fr: 0001, 23 April 1945
To: 2400, 23 April 1945

Bn remains in defensive position Altenfelden. At 1130 two platoons CCR Rifle Co jumped off with mission of entering Allersberg. Moved into town against light, fanatical resistance and captured town at 1145. Remaining Inf moved into town to secure. Battalion to CCA control at 00001. Battalion ordered to assembly area Goggelsbuch. Moved out at 1830, order march: C Co (-), Hq & Hq Co, 1-D-25, CCR Rifle Co, Medics, Maint. Closed at 2100 and town outposted. Battalion alerted to move to SE at 0630, 24 April. CCA to move to assembly area Zell. Division attached to 3rd Army 3rd Corps at 1200. 2-A-125 relieved to parent unit.

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Fr: 0001, 24 April 1945
To: 2400, 24 April 1945

At 0800, B and C-25 attached to 86 Inf Div, B Co to 341 Inf Regt, C Co to 342 Inf Regt. A-25 remains with 62 AIB. Bn (-) moved out at 1130 following 68 AIB and closed in assembly area in Zell at 1530. Made reconnaissance of routes to vic Offenbau, Unter Massing, Mine field discovered at 547624. At 1600 Bn ordered to move vic 599605, move executed and closed in Unter Massing at 2030. Platoon A-48 attached to 25. C-25 supported 342 Inf Regt with two platoons with advance elements attacking toward Eichstadt. Route Ellingen-Weiszenburg-Rothenstein-Rupertsbuch-Eichstadt. One tank hit by AT fire vic Rupertsbuch, knocked out, no casualties. Knocked out 88 AT gun vic Rothstein. Against very light resistance composed oflight arty and Mort fire attack continued through the night, route Fiegenstal, Burgsalach, Raitenbuch, Reut, Kaldorf, Petersbuch, Wormersdorf. Lt Chrisman injured by mortar fire. B-25 supporting 341 Inf Regt moving on left flank of 342 Inf Regt. Met no resistance. D-25 (-) reverted to 25 control.

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: 0001, 25 April 1945
To: 2400, 25 April 1945

25 (-) moved out at 0700 and closed in assembly area Schutzendorf at 0845 and remained there awaiting further orders. C-25 supporting 342 Inf Regt attacking SE, crossed Altmuhl River at Ingolstadt. Ran into AT fire N of Eichstadt but passed thru their fire without suffering casualties. B-25 with 341 Inf Regt on left supported their attack through Krafstbuch, Morsbach, Biburg, Kaldorf, Pollenfeld, Wiegersdorf, Preith, Inching, to Altmuhl River, encountered no resistance.

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Fr: 0001, 26 April 1945
To: 2400, 26 April 1945

Bn (-) moved from Schutzendorf at 1330, closed in assembly area Hirnstetten at 1430. Moved out 1620, mission: Seize crossing of Danube vic Vohburg. Closed in Menning at 2230. Bridge across Danube vic Vohburg blown. C-25 supporting 342 Inf Regt moving toward Ingolstadt. Blown craters in road held up tanks and area around craters covered by AT fire. Tanks passed through fields of fire without being hit, entered town of Ingolstadt at 1700. Bridge across Danube blown. Platoon C-25 with another column of 342 ran into direct fire vic Hepberg and one tank knocked out. Tanks pulled back into Wittsletten for resupply. B-25 with 341 moved via route, Pfinz, Hitzhoffen, Hofstetten, Kosching, met no resistance. At Theissing spotted two enemy tanks, knocked out one, the other was abandoned, assisted in capturing 200 PWs and killing and wounding 100 enemy in this vicinity. Held up until bridge could be completed at Ingolstadt.

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Fr: 0001, 27 April 1945
To: 2400, 27 April 1945

25 (-) in assembly area Menning awaiting further orders. Received harassing medium artillery fire intermittently throughout day. Platoon A-48 released to parent unit, Bn from CCA to CCR. Bn moved out at 1830, mission moving into Ingolstadt. Closed at 2030, outposted southern sector of town and maintained hourly roving patrol around sector using Section D-25. C-25 attached to 343 Inf Regt, Moved across Danube at 0830. Supported Inf attack along route Manching, Winden, Rohr, against very light resistance. B-25 crossed Danube at Ingolstadt at 1500 and supported Regt attacking through Manching, Lindach, Ernsgaden, Spotted retreating column vic Illmendorf and knocked out one personnel carrier, killed ten enemy and instrumental in capturing 150 prisoners.

---

Fr: 0001, 28 April 1945
To: 2400, 28 April 1945

Battalion relieved elements of 99th Inf Div in Ingolstadt. Division Objective crossing of Isar River. Moved out at 1700 and closed in Ober Pindhart at 2100. A-25 less one platoon remaining with 62, reverted to 25 control. C-25 with 342 continued supporting advance elements attacking toward Eschelback, Freising. Practically no resistance encountered. B-25 supporting 341, axis of attack Engelbredtsmunster, Rotteneygg, Mainburg, Rudelyhausen, Ran into Enemy column, head on, vicinity Mainburg, knocked out two trucks, three personnel carriers, instrumental in killing 50 and capturing 300 prisoners.

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S-3 JOURNAL, 25TH TANK BN

Fr: 0001, 29 April 1945
To: 2400, 29 April 1945

Bn moved out from Ober Pindhart at 1030 and closed in Furth at 1640. C-25 with 342 attacking Murchen-Sunzhausen toward Freising. B-25 with 341 Inf Regt supporting attack along route Attendirchen, Haag, Langenbach. Relieved 341, attached 342 in late afternoon. No resistance, light artillery fire vic Isar River.

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Fr: 0001, 30 April 1945
To: 2400, 30 April 1945

Bn in assembly area Furth awaiting further orders. 1-A-125 attached to 25. At 0530, A-25 and CCR Rifle Co attached to 68; reverted to 25 at 1700. B-25 held position and crossed Isar River at Freising during hours of darkness, bridge being completed at 1700. C-25 moved across at 1800 and continued supporting 342 attacking toward Eitting against little resistance, occasional arty fire.

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RESTRIC

S-1 Annex to Unit Journal

Period 1-30 April 1945

1. a. KIA :
   Officers: 1
   EM : 2
   b. MIA :
   Officers: None
   EM : None
   c. WIA :
   Officers: 3
   EM : 43
   d. NBC :
   Officers: 1
   EM : 26

2. Prisoners of War: 8034

3. Roster of Key Personnel:
   Commanding Officer: Lt Col E. C. Watson
   Executive Officer: Major H. E. Philips
   Operations Officer (S-3): Major W. E. Shedd, III
   Intelligence Officer (S-2): Capt G. T. Emmet, Jr.
   S-3 Air Communications Officer: Capt W. V. Horne
   Adjutant (S-1): 2d Lt M. W. Throckmorton
   Supply Officer (S-4): Capt M. Wax
   Liaison Officer: 1st Lt W. C. Hampton
   Battalion Surgeon: Capt L. I. Sexton
   CO Hq Co: Capt R. S. Printup
   CO Co A: 1st Lt J. R. Martin
   CO Co B: 1st Lt A. P. Hyde, Jr.
   CO Co C: Capt A. W. Winiarczyk
   CO Co D: Capt W. H . Smith
   CO Sv Co: Capt A. H. Green

4. Promotions:
   a. Officers: To Capt: 1st Lt M. Wax
   To 1st Lt: 2d Lt W. H. Kekar, Jr.
   To 2d Lt: T/Sgt R. M. Cardinal
   To 2d Lt: S/Sgt F. J. Neff
   b. EM: To 1st/Sgt: Tec 4 Bruce
   To S/Sgt: Sgt Germano
   To S/Sgt: Sgt Hill, Jr.
   To S/Sgt: Sgt Colonna
   To S/Sgt: Tec 4 Meehan
   To Sgt: Cpl Mulrenan, Jr.
   To Sgt: Cpl Hoxie
   To Sgt: Pfc Sopczynski
   To Tec 4: Tec 5 Green
   To Tec 4: Tec 5 Miller
   To Tec 4: Pfc Billingsley
   To Cpl: Pfc Holstad
   To Cpl: Pfc Dessel
   To Cpl: Pfc Kell
   To Cpl: Pfc Bogue
   To Cpl: Pfc Davis



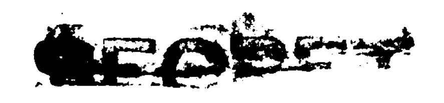
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S-1 Annex to Unit Journal, Period 1-30 April 1945 (Cont'd)

4. b. (Cont'd)

To Tec 5: Pfc Leighton
To Tec 5: Pvt Fleckenstein
To Tec 5: Pvt Padgett

5. Decorations and Awards:
a. Bronze Star: 1st Lt Chrisman



25th Tank Bn.

0001, 1 May 1945
2400, 1 May 1945

Battalion in assembly area Furth. Division objective to sieze crossing of Isar River. Battalion moved out at 1255 and closed in Loiting at 2200. C-25 with elements of 86 Inf. Division attacking via route Eitting, Erding, Altham, Lengfeld. Encountered no resistance. B-25 with elements of 86 Inf. Div. attacking via route Berglen, Grumbach, Ober Dorfen, Encountered no resistance.

0001, 2 May 1945
2400, 2 May 1945

A-25 and two platoons of CCR Rifle Co. cleared towns of Hilpolding, Dorfen. Reconnaissance Platoon made route reconnaissance to Veldon. Bn moved out at 1230, mission, move to new assembly area vic Stephanskirchen. Closed in Stephanskirchen at 1800. B and C 25 with elements 86 Inf. Div. when advance elements neared Wasserburg. Due to narrowing of front, Corps squeezed out of zone. German troops in Italy and Bavaria surrendered unconditionally.

0001, 3 May 1945
2400, 3 May 1945

Battalion (-) occupying and outposting town of Stephanskirchen. Patrol of 3 Lt. Tanks, two Squads CCR Rifle Co. and two Rcn peeps with crews cleared all towns in Battalion Area. At 0900 B & C-25 reverted to 25 control. C-25 moved to, occupied and outposted Hilpolding. B-25 moved,to, occupied and outposted Sterneck.

0001, 4 May 1945
2400, 4 May 1945

Battalion in assembly area Stephanskirchen with C-25 remaining in Hilpolding, B-25 in Sterneck. Towns outposted. Battalion placed special emphasis on maintenance. Due to continual grind during operations of last month, all vehicles badly in need of maintenance work. Very unlikely that Battalion will be committed again in this theatre. Battalion to remain in present position for several days due to road conditions.

0001, 5 May 1945
2400, 5 May 1945

Battalion in assembly area Stephanskirchen, Hilpolding, Sterneck awaiting further orders. Time devoted to maintenance of vehicles and weapons and personal clean up. All vehicles restowed. 1-A-125 reverted to parent unit control.

0001, 6 May 1945
2400, 6 May 1945

Battalion in assembly area Stephanskirchen, Hilpolding, Sterneck awaiting further orders. Entire working day devoted to Maintenance of vehicles and weapons.



0001, 7 May 1945
2400, 7 May 1945

Battalion in assembly area Stephanskirchen, Hilpolding, Sterneck. Time devoted to Maintenance of vehicles and weapons. Battalion took over sector to patrol and installations to guard. Two patrols from Reconnaissance Platoon-25 patrolled the following routes once each day. Patrol # 1: Veldon, Mariaberg, Hinterskirchen, Ob-Schnetlberg, Riembauer, Pfaffenbach, Brandl, Maierbach, Vilssohn, Veldon. Patrol # 2: Tottendorf, Haarbach, Baumgarten, Rettenbach, Geisenhausen, Vilsbiburg, Gaindorf, Tottendorf. Two factories in Geisenhausen guarded by two squads from Mortar Platoon 24 hours a day.

15528

0001, 8 May 1945
2400, 8 May 1945

Battalion in assembly area Stephanskirchen, Hilpolding, Sterneck. Towns occupied and outposted. Present plans call for Battalion taking over police and patrol sector vicinity Wunsiedel. Two patrols from Reconnaissance Platoon continuing patrols, two factories in Geisenhausen guarded by personnel from Mortar Platoon. Training schedules put into effect and followed by all Companies. Priority still given to maintenance of vehicles. Announcement of complete surrender of Germany and this date designated as VE Day. Battalion Victory Parade held at 1700 at which time copy of General Eisenhowers proclamation read to all troops. Weather; Clear, warm.

0001, 9 May 1945
2400, 9 May 1945

No change in troop disposition, patrols and factory guards. Normal training conducted during day featuring showdown inspections and inspections of clothing and equipment . Warning order from Division; be prepared to move to new area and assume Military Government responsibilities, further orders to follow. Weather; Clear, warm.

0001, 10 May 1945
2400, 10 May 1945

Battalion in Assembly area Stephanskirchen, Hilpolding, Sterneck. Training stressing maintenance of vehicles and weapons, physical fitness and athletics carried out during day. At 1600 orders from CCR "Bn to move to Vilbiburg following day in order to get into sector now being screened. Billiting party left at 1800. Orders cancelled at 2200 and new orders moving Battalion to Ingolstadt received. Battalion to occupy Ingolstadt South of Danube River and take over patrols, place guards on installations now being manned by 8th. TD Battalion. Reconnaissance Platoon continued two daily patrols in sector and Mortar platoon continued guarding factories in Geisenhausen. Weather, warm, clear, min. temp. 50.

0001, 11 May 1945
2400, 11 May 1945

Battalion moved out at 0700, mission of moving from present position to Ingolstadt and take over police area being held by 8th. TD Battalion. Order of march; A Co., D Co., Hq and Hq. Co., CCR Rifle Co., B Co., Ser. Co., Medics,. C Co. to move to Landshut and join column in rear of B Co., Battalion closed in Ingolstadt at 1650, all Companies and detachments South of Danube River. Companies billited and Battalion motor park established. Expect to remain in this location approximately seven to eight days. Present plans for Battalion to relieve patrols and guards of 8th. TD on 13 May. Weather: clear, warm, min temp 50 degrees. Mortar Squads remained on guard at factories in Geisenhausen until mid afternoon when relieved and joined Battalion.

0001, 12 May 1945
2400, 12 May 1945

Battalion occupying sector South of Danube River in Ingolstadt prepared to take over patrols and guard posts being manned by 8th. TD Battalion. Entire day spent in arranging Battalion Motor Park, arranging Companies in billits, arranging for recreational facilities. Swimming place found and in afternoon troops allowed to use.same. Weather; Clear, warm, min. temp. 50 degrees.

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0001, 13 May 1945
2400, 13 May 1945

Battalion occupying sector South of Danube River in Ingolstadt. Reconnaissance platoon took over following two patrols: Route A; Manching, Notting, Ernsgaden, Rockolding, Vohburg, Griesham, Munchsmunster, Schwaig, Mauern, Neustadt. Route B; Ingolstadt, Unsernherrn, Nied-Stimm, Manching, Irsching, Vohburg, Rockolding, Ernsgaden, Lindach, Manching. Patrols running route once every 24 hours. One half track with crew from Rcn. Platoon took over patrol running through the city of Ingolstade South of Danube River. Patrol to be run once each night beginning at 2130. Two installations under guard taken over by A and B Companies. Post # 1, Railroad station at T772225 (Railroad cars containing sheet, metal, cotton, signal equipment, motors, transformers, and ammunition. Manned by A Co. Post # 2, Warehouse at coordinates T715225(food). Manned by B Co. Post # 1 and 2, twenty four hour posts. No scheduled training during day, swimming facilities being used extensively. Church services at 1830. Weather, clear and warm.

0001, 14 May 1945
2400, 14 May 1945

Reconnaissance Platoon continuing patrols with A and B Co. manning posts on vital installations, Posts # 1 & 2. Normal training conducted during day with retreat formation and personnel and weapons inspections at 1730. First baseball practice held, with approximately fifteen men present. A and B Cos. devoted entire afternoon to swimming and athletics. Weather; clear and warm.

0001, 15 May 1945
2400, 15 May 1945

Continued active patrols in sector following Routes A and B and manning posts on installations, posts 1 and 2. Normal training during day. Retreat formation and personnel and weapons inspection at 1730. Weather: clear and warm. Division to XX Corps at 2400.

0001, 16 May 1945
2400, 16 May 1945

No change in occupational duties. Plans made for bringing in all German abandon vehicles and forming pool vid Battalion Motor park. Weather: clear and warm. Normal training during day.

0001, 17 May 1945
2400, 17 May 1945

On orders from CCR, Battalion billiting party to CCR at 1300. Orders covering move to new area to follow. At 1600 orders from CCR moving Battalion to new area vic Toging, Germany to take over new occupational and police area. Move to be executed beginning at 0600, 18 May 1945. Information to Company COs at 1800. Weather; clear and warm. Patrols and guards on installations relieved by elements of 9th. Inf. Division.

0001, 18 May 1945
2400, 18 May 1945

Battalion moved out at 0600, order of march: A Co., D Co., Hq & Hq Co., B Co., C Co., Ser and Medics, CCR Rifle Co., route of march: Ingolstadt, Mainburg, Martinzell, Pfettrach, Landshut, Geisenhausen, Vilsiburg, Neumarkt, Erharting, Toging. Closed in Toging at 1650. Occupied town and plans made for setting up patrol, and police sectors for companies. Weather: Clear and warm.

0001, 19 May 1945
2400, 19 May 1945

Battalion occupying town of Toging. Morning devoted to relocation of Companies and setting up motor parks. Reconnaissance Platoon made reconnaissance of routes in Battalion zone to later be run by Companies daily as part of occupational and police duties, all towns vicinity of route responsibility of company. Route A: Toging, Aresing, Heistg, Hottg, Buchbach, Strass, Trastg, Tharn, Fluckersdt, Dornach, Schmidhub, Buchleiten, Aresing, Toging. Route B: Winhoring, Guntersburg, Hilling, Thalh, Wald, Harmetg, Ecking, Wissersdorf, Dietersburg, Iffelsburg, Hilling, Toging. Route C: Reischach, Haunburg, Endlkchn, Erlbach, Freiung, Giglburg, Thannersburg, Berg, Perach, Westerndorf. Route D: Thannersburg, Steigthait, Marktl, Hofschallern, Stamburg, Larrgasser. Route E: Toging, Hart, Hockfelden, Schmidstock, Staudach. Hqrs. Company placed guard on bridge across canal in Toging and on power plant and dam. Swimming pool in town made available to Companies on schedule, plans for athletic and recreational program being made. Weather: Clear and warm. Bn taking over sector from 13th A.D.

0001, 20 May 1945
2400, 20 May 1945

No change in occupational duties. Battalion formation at 1000 for presentation of awards to members of Battaion by Maj. Gen. Smith. Interior and exterior guard duties stressed and beginning at 1700, ODs designated for 24 hour tour of duty. No scheduled training during day. Weather: partly cloudy, cooler, light rains. CCR Rifle Co. reverted to CCR control.

0001, 21 May 1945
2400, 21 May 1945

Companies took over occupational and police sectors running patrols through all towns vicinity of prescribed route. To contact Burgemeisters in towns, be alert for Nazi party members, report any disturbances, report any abandoned German vehicles and weapons, freeze all civilian automotive traffic unless authorized by Military Government, report on displaced personnel, arrange for evacuation. Zone covered by route A manned by A Co., Route B by B Co., route C by C Co., route D by D Co. route E b Hqrs. and Service Co. Hqrs. Co. maintaining 24 hour guard on bridge and power plant and dam in Toging. Normal training conducted during day with Retreat Formation and Weapons inspection at 1730. Weather: slightly cloudy, light rains, cool, min. temp. 45 degrees. Hqrs. Co. placed guard on displaced Persons Camp, 24 hour guard. Service Co placed 24 hour guard on warehouse containing oil, E edge of town. A Co Took over Guarding of Power plant & Dam fr Hq. Co., C Co took over Road block at Bridge from Hqrs. Co. Btry 136 Ord. occupying & guarding Aluminum plant in Toging.

0001, 22 May 1945
2400, 22 May 1945

[illegible] normal training during day. [illegible] Retreat [illegible] at 1730 daily. [illegible] Battalion [illegible]

0001, 23 May 1945
2400, 23 May 1945

[illegible] training [illegible] no change in occupational duties. [illegible] temp 10°.

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